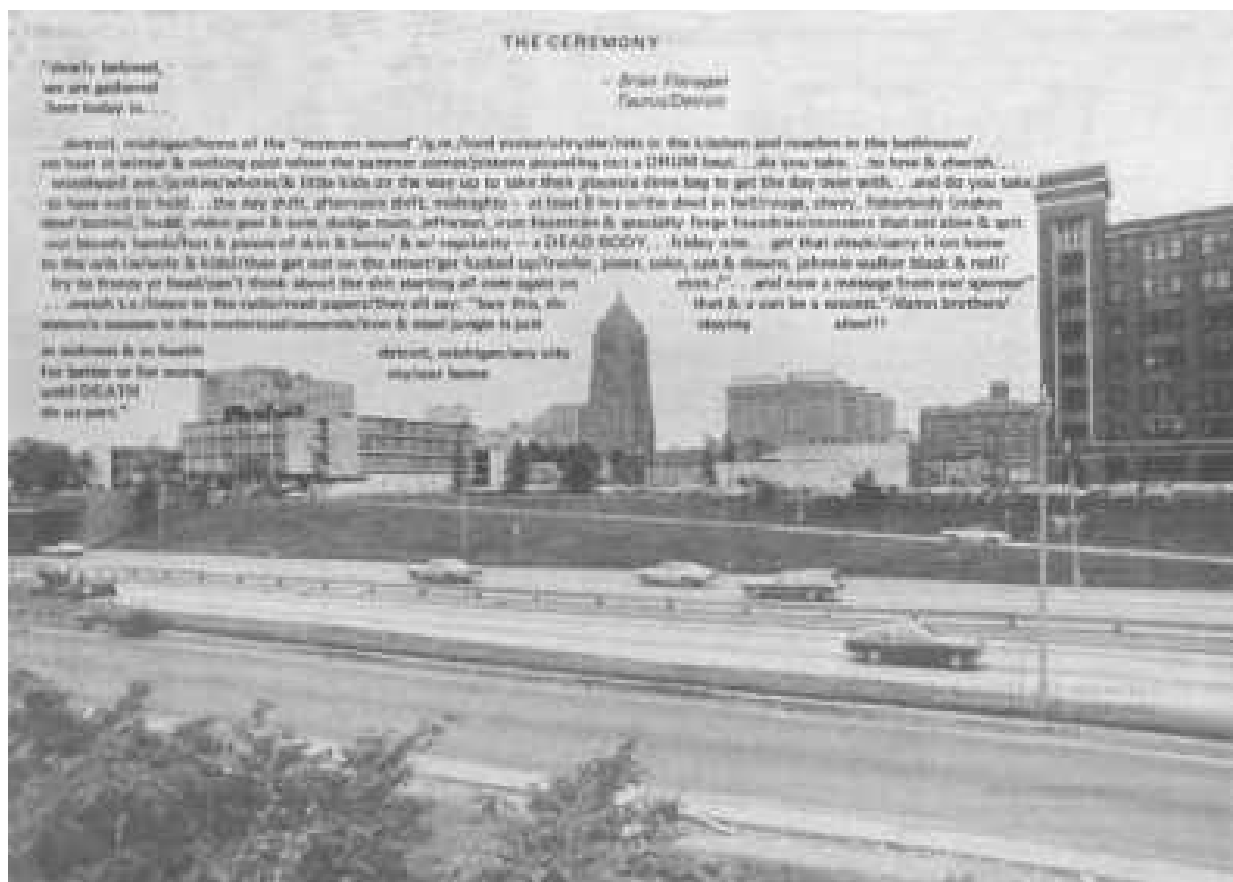


# The Ceremony

Brian Flanagan

1971



(Taurus/Detroit)

"dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in...

...detroit, michigan/home of the "motown sound"/g.m./ford motor/chrysler/rats in the kitchen and roaches in the bathroom/ no heat in winter & nothing cool when the summer comes/pistons pounding out a DRUM beat...do you take...to love & cherish... woodward ave./junkies/whores/& little kids on the way up to take their places/a dime bag to get the day over with...and do you take to have and to hold...the day shift, afternoon shift, midnights—at

least 8 hrs w/the devil in hell/rouge, chevy, fisherbody (makes dead bodies), budd, eldon gear & axle, dodge main, jefferson, iron foundries & specialty forge foundries/monsters that eat alive & spit out bloody hands/feet & pieces of skin & bone/ & w/ regularity—a DEAD BODY...friday nite...get that check/carry it on home to the crib (w/wife & kids)/then get out on the street/get fucked up/(reefer, jones, coke, ups & downs, johnnie walker black & red)/try to freeze yr head/can't think about the shit starting all over again on mon./"...and now a message from our sponsor"...watch t.v./listen to the radio/read papers/they all say: "buy this, do that & u can be a success."/damn brothers/sisters/a success in this motorized/concrete/iron & steel jungle is just staying alive!!!

in sickness & in health  
for better or for worse  
until DEATH do us part  
detroit, michigan/any city my/our home

# fifth Estate

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<https://www.fifthestate.org/archive/127-march-18-31-1971/the-ceremony>  
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