



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Bertie Ahern attacks Sinn Fein on IRA connection



Mr. Bertie Ahern

Dublin premier, Bertie Ahern has added his voice to the attacks on Sinn Fein's IRA connections. It has particular significance as his criticisms came in the run-up to the Good Friday Agreement review.

Mr Ahern told republicans to look at illegal IRA activity before talking about political corruption.

In the Dail on January 27th, he said: "I have made it clear that Sinn Fein and the IRA are two sides of the same coin."

He spoke out after Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny raised Justice Minister Michael McDowell's claims that Sinn Fein benefits from the IRA's criminal income.

Mr Kenny said if an allegation of such gravity was made about Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, the Labour Party or the Green Party, there would be calls for public inquiries.

Mr. Ahern replied: "If some members of Sinn Fein want to lay charges about corruption against other parties, they should consider very carefully where they are coming from on the whole issue."

The attacks have infuriated Sinn Fein since they are butreiterations of unionist claims and criticisms mounted by the British Government.

Fermanagh and South Tyrone Sinn Fein MP, Michelle Gildernew, said recently that the attacks were part of an "antirepublican, anti-nationalist and anti-peace process agenda. Sinn Féin's accounts are properly audited and adhere to all the guidelines set out in both the six and 26 Counties in relation to fundraising and spending, and were recently confirmed as such by the Standards in Public Office," she said.