



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Rewarding the violent and punishing the lawful

*"Unionists quit talks, warn of potential for violence, but urge peaceful protest after Ardoyne decision"*

*"Peter Robinson: Parades Commission ruling is threat to institutions"*

These are but two of the local press headlines following the walk-out by loyalist politicians from talks with the Parades Commission on the issue of parades and flags.

The commission had decided to bar a 12th of July Orange Order parade from returning along part of the Crumlin Road in north Belfast.

Part of a statement issued by a number of Unionist parties and groups, in response to the Parades Commission ruling which banned an Orange Order parade from returning by the route that it was to be permitted to use on its outward parade, because of the possibility of Republican street violence, speaks of "rewarding violence".

*"This Parades Commission determination creates a serious situation for Northern Ireland. We know, having seen republican threats of violence being rewarded, the conclusion is swiftly drawn that violence pays.  
....."*

#### SHAMEFUL

It is true that the Parades Commission is acting in a shameful, cowardly and biased manner. They are scared of Republican violence. The international reaction to such violence, especially from the USA, is one of sympathy and support. Such violence will be justified and the blame laid at the feet of the police and the state.

Loyalist violence, on the other hand, is invariably reported as, "Protestant violence", and that it is "totally without justification".

The loyalist community has seen its rights and freedoms curtailed and denied, in order to placate the unending demands of Republicanism. The flying of the national flag, the Union Jack, has become an offence while the alien flag of the Irish Republic may be seen flying, year-round, in a very large number of villages, towns and cities throughout Northern Ireland.

The removal of that alien flag is also likely to be deemed a criminal act and result in a court appearance and punishment.

Furthermore, the "official flying" of the national flag on government buildings has been curtailed drastically, again to placate Republicans. The Union Jack cannot even be flown on our Parliament Buildings, except on those days which have the approval of Republicans!!

Therefore, it is not surprising that this latest ruling by the Parades Commission has generated something of a "backlash" amongst loyalists who feel things have gone too far.

#### LET UNIONISM REMEMBER

However, amidst all the indignant splutterings of the Democratic and Ulster Unionist politicians and the sense of wrong experienced by many in the loyalist community, it should be remembered that ***in 2007 ULSTER LOYALISTS WERE LED BY THE DUP TO EMBRACE POWER-SHARING WITH IRA/SINN FEIN IN THE GREATEST ACT OF REWARDING TERROR THAT WESTERN DEMOCRACY HAS WITNESSED IN RECENT TIMES.***

That wicked act of betrayal was supported by the Ulster Unionists!!

It was these politicians, not the Parades Commission, irrespective of how wrong its present policy may be,



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

who first embraced the policy of "rewarding violence"!

Presently, the Parades Commission is to be condemned for surrendering to the "threat" of street violence against a parade along the public highway by Orangemen, but let it never be forgotten that it was Peter Robinson and his cohorts in the Democratic Unionist Party who were prepared to reward the 30 year-long campaign of IRA murder and terror, resulting in tens of thousands murdered or maimed, by bringing them into government in 2007 by agreeing to enter a power-sharing government with IRA/Sinn Fein.

They set the precedent for the rewarding of violence. How incongruous and bizarre it is for the DUP and UUP to be now at the forefront of those who condemn the Parades Commission for doing that which they sanctioned and sanitised in 2007!

### **WRONG**

Of course the Parades Commission decision is wrong.

It is wrong for it is a capitulation to the threat of republican street violence.

It is wrong for it endorses the wrong of a wicked precedent.

It is wrong because it entails another trampling upon the rights and freedoms of a people who have already suffered much wrong at the hands of the United Kingdom government as well as its local vassal politicians.

However, there can be little hope of ever stopping this continued encroachment of the civil rights of the loyalist community until that community acknowledges the shameful nature of the support it gave to the 2007 power-sharing agreement, which has poured money into the pockets of Unionist politicians, while those who elected them have very little to show for the seven years of this Stormont Debacle!

That would require a facing up to McGuinness and his political thugs in Stormont, the pulling of the plug on the sham that Stormont presently is, and a readiness on the part of DUP elected representatives to sacrifice the rich pickings that they have enjoyed for many years.

### **REMEMBER THE SOMME**

In this year in which we recall the bravery and sacrifice of our forefathers in World War I, are there any in the DUP prepared to take the much smaller risk and pay the infinitely smaller price than they did, in order to maintain freedom in Ulster??

I have the gravest of doubts, sad to say. We can but despair when we look at men for with men these things are impossible.

But our hope must be in the Lord.

There is a great need for true believers to own their sins that have been committed, the proud ways and un-biblical notions that have been embraced since 2007 and to turn back to the Lord in repentance and humility.

2 Chronicles 7:14 stands as a lighthouse amidst the dark seas into which foolish, greedy men have steered the ship of state here in Ulster. Here is a word to guide us back to a peaceful calm.

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7:14.*

God help us to follow this light.

Ivan Foster, 3rd July, 2014.



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive