



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Stripping Northern Ireland bit by bit of its Britishness



Some events have taken place of late which underscore the direction of affairs in Northern Ireland. The Union Flag is to lose its permanent spot at Lisburn City Council's headquarters after unionist councillors admitted defeat, following a bitter five-year battle with nationalists.

Members of the strategic policy committee agreed that the flag should fly only on 19 designated days throughout the year. They were effectively left with no choice, following a ruling in July from the Equality Commission that the council had contravened its own equality scheme by deciding to fly the flag 365 days a year since January. The decision was not opposed by the DUP and should be rubber-stamped at the full council meeting on Tuesday, October 24. A unionist source said the DUP and UUP had little option but to abandon the attempt to have the flag flown permanently at Lagan Valley Island. The committee voted to ensure that the flag is flown all-year at the war memorial in Castle Street. The Equality Commission carried out an investigation into the matter after a complaint from Sinn Fein's Paul Butler.

Another incident further illustrates the erosion of our links with the United Kingdom. The Royal crest has been removed from a Northern Ireland court. It has been removed from a new courtroom in the Northern Ireland High Court where it has been unlawfully on display for over three years. The decision to take it down last week followed a complaint from a member of the legal profession. The crest was erected in Family Court 2 in August, 2003, seven months after the Justice (NI) Order 2002 outlawed the practice. The legislation came into force in January 2003.

The legislation, passed under the Good Friday Agreement, prevents the display of the Royal Arms in courts, except where the crest was already in existence. A citizen can be prevented from flying the union flag on his own property should someone complain that it offends him! This too is part of the grand scheme of things to get Sinn Fein/IRA into government. A spokesman for the Court Service said: "An administrative error during refurbishment of the Royal Courts of Justice led to the display of the Royal Arms in Family Court 2. The Royal Arms has now been removed."

Under the terms of the "St. Andrews Agreement", the Irish Language Act which will be introduced in order to placate Sinn Fein, will doubtless be used as a vehicle to finance all sorts of schemes and plans designed with one purpose in mind, the eroding of Britishness in Ulster.

If this is "victory" over Sinn Fein, I would hate to think what defeat at their hands will entail!