



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

DUP Education Spokesman, Mervyn Storey MLA - a modern “Mr Facing-Both-Ways”

On 1st April Mr Storey was interviewed on the “[Nolan Show](#)” on BBC's Radio Ulster.

He was loyally advocating his party leader's call for integrated education - that is all children should be educated in one non-religious state system. He is, after all, the DUP Education spokesman!

Mr Robinson's scheme would mean of course the scrapping of the state-financed Roman Catholic school system.

I believe (I hope I am not wrong) that Mr Robinson's scheme would still allow those who wish to pay for their own independent Christian schools, as the Free Presbyterian Church presently does, to continue doing so.

However, Rome is not going to give up the highly privileged position that she has enjoyed now for half a century or more without a fight. The DUP knows that all too well and is seeking to skirt around that element of the controversy. Rome basically has free education provided for her children while she controls every aspect of its ethos and curriculum content.

DENIED

This is a position that has long been denied to every Protestant Church since Rome's grant-supported schools were inaugurated back sixty years ago by the Unionist Government in Stormont and upgraded many times since until the present arrangement of 100% free education under Rome's control was achieved many decades ago.

RETICENT

When he was pressed if he would recommend to the Free Presbyterian Church Peter Robinson's proposed new education system, Mr Storey was understandably reticent in giving a forthright answer. I think that is clear in audio clip which we have mounted.

Mr Storey is a Free Presbyterian elder. The congregation of which he is a member has an Independent Christian School of which he as an elder is, de facto, part of the management structure. He also stated on the BBC programme that his children were educated there.

Were he to suggest to the Free Presbyterian Church that they should become part of the new DUP education scheme he would be calling for the closure of all Free Presbyterian schools, the oldest of which has been running since 1979 without one penny of State finance. Furthermore he would be repudiating the Biblical principles upon which Christian Education is founded and which he hitherto has professed.



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On the other hand, were he to advocate that the Free Presbyterian Church and indeed denominations faithful to God's Word, should not become part of Mr Robinson's grand scheme, he would be failing in his duty to his party and his obligations as DUP Education spokesman to encourage all to support the scheme.

The audio clip from the "Nolan Show" indicates, I believe, Mr Storey's reluctance to come down on one side or the other or even to answer the question of whether he would have educated his children within Mr Robinson's proposed school system.

DILEMMA

That has ever been the dilemma of the Christian in politics. It is difficult to follow the maxim advocated by Bob Jones Sr - "Do right though the stars fall."

For a politician, popularity and votes falling present a greater dread than stars falling!

Mr Robinson's scheme is directed at the large unionist liberal constituency which the DUP, in its former and original state, had no interest in but rather considered the "enemy"!

Now, however, the DUP has metamorphosed from a traditional conservative party, strongly influenced by the Word of God, into a middle-of-the-road party, aiming to ingratiate itself with the ecumenical denominations who support integrated education with its anti-Bible bias.

PILATE

You can see Mr Storey's problem. It is not dissimilar to Pilate's of long ago. He knew what was right. He knew he should have sided with the innocent victim of religious bigotry brought before his court. But to side with Jesus of Nazareth, Who claimed to be the Son of God, would be to act contrary to his political interests. He would indeed not be "Caesar's friend." Rather, he would be guilty of "speaking against Caesar." (John 19:12, KJV).

Mr Storey is learning a very old lesson which the Lord Jesus stated in this fashion. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon," Matthew 6:24, KJV.

But you will not be able to draw a DUP MLA's financial wages and benefits and follow that principle. Hence for many mammon gets their vote.