



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Licensing of Macleod opponent revoked.

**During a visit to Stornoway in the Isle of Lewis, in December 1997, where I was to speak on the subject of Christian education, I met Mr David Blunt. He was at that time a ministerial student in the Free Church College, Edinburgh. He was a fervent supporter of Christian education and that, amongst other things, had brought him into conflict with Prof. Macleod who had ridiculed the idea of Christian education, even though he had once advocated the need of such educational provision for the offspring of Christians. The following is taken from the editorial of the July issue of Free Church Foundations, the magazine published by the Free Church Defence Association.**

"Here again the Assembly took an unprecedented step. It decided that the recognition granted by the Training of the Ministry Committee to Mr David Blunt as a candidate for the ministry be withdrawn. The Skye and Uist Presbytery were rebuked for licensing him as a preacher in the face of appeals by two Presbyteries. Skye Presbytery had fully investigated all the complaints and answered them in detail. It therefore decided that these appeals were frivolous. This was a low point in the Assembly. A godly man's entrance into the ministry can now be vetoed by another Presbytery because they do not like the party to which he is perceived to belong. Mr Blunt had blotted his copy-book in the eyes of several influential people when he expressed concern about Professor Macleod's involvement with Roman Catholic priests at an ecumenical conference in 1993. How far we have departed from our old robust Protestantism! The two Presbyteries who complained of Skye's actions in ignoring frivolous appeals had themselves done the self-same thing in recent months. It seems there is one law for Edinburgh and Inverness and another for Skye. Again, some of us found it necessary not only to dissent but to protest against this unconstitutional interference in the proper jurisdiction of another Presbytery."



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