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DUP parrots the old cry of the ecumenists



Back in the early days of the Free Presbyterian Church and the struggle against ecumenical unionism, Dr Ian Paisley was frequently labelled “sectarian” and merely seeking “publicity” and attempting to “stir up controversy”, whenever he protested against events that were part of the romanising trend within mainline Protestant and unionist religious/political groups.

It seems that the mantle of those compromising Protestant groups against whom Dr Paisley and his supporters protested has settled comfortably upon the shoulders of the modern DUP, if the words of one of its councillors, Councillor Trevor Clarke, are to be believed. The report which appears below appeared in the “Irish News” and makes interesting reading for those who lived through the days of ridicule and sneering faced by any seeking to remain faithful to the gospel and old-line unionism.

It would appear that the modern DUP man cannot distinguish between countenancing unbiblical worship and honouring those of whatever religion, who served their country in times of war.

There is a world of difference between acknowledging their bravery and condoning their religious beliefs.

The priest who preached at the Remembrance service was fellow to those priests who frequently honoured IRA murderers and eulogised them during their funeral services, during the dark days when Councillor Clarke’s coalition partners were waging cruel terrorist war on Protestants.

But then such things must never be remembered by the recent converts to ecumenism that now make up the DUP.

Rev Ivan Foster.
18th November 2008.

TUV priest snub a ‘publicity stunt’ – DUP

By James Stinson Business Unit, 17/11/2008

A ROW is brewing between rival unionist factions on Antrim council after the DUP accused a TUV councillor of a “sectarian snub”.

Traditional Unionist Voice councillor Mel Lucas, pictured, refused to take part in a Remembrance Day service in the town last weekend because a Catholic priest was present.

The cross-denominational service was held in a Protestant church, but Mr Lucas,



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a former DUP member, stood outside and refused to go in.

"I have principles, one of which is that I will not partake in worship that is being conducted by a Roman Catholic priest," Mr Lucas said.

However DUP councillor Trevor Clarke branded the move a publicity stunt.

"I'm afraid this is little more than another desperate attempt by the Traditional Unionists to stir up controversy by proving they can out-Prod the rest," he said.

"This time however they are doing it over the graves of young men and women who sacrificed their lives so Mel could have the freedom to insult their memory."

TUV party leader Jim Allister backed Mr Lucas.

"I think that before they throw stones, they had better enquire into their own position. Would William McCrea have been there? Because if William McCrea had declined to go or would decline to go then why are they pointing the finger at anyone else?" he asked.

"As for councillor Lucas, it is up to him to exercise his own conscience on these matters.

"If he's a member of the Orange Order, he probably would have felt certain obligations because they have rules about these matters."

Mr Clarke confirmed that Mr McCrea, who normally attends the service, was not present at this year's service either.

"He was at another service. Because he is MP for the area, that obviously covers a larger geographical area than just Antrim town.

"The priest gave a sermon which was entirely about the poppy and the act of remembrance," Mr Clarke said.

Three weeks ago Mr Lucas caused a stir when he criticised soap powder company Ariel for sponsoring the GAA. He said Ariel was engaging with a body that "glorified terrorism" because the GAA has named a number of clubs after republican hunger strikers.