

The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Martin McGuinness targets Christian Schools

Martin McGuinness a modern Haman

Sinn Feiner and reputed former IRA Chief of Staff, Martin McGuinness, the Minister of Education in the Northern Ireland Executive, has indicated in a written answer that his department intends introducing legislation, banning corporal punishment in Free Presbyterian Christian day schools. It appears that the seven schools under the jurisdiction of the Free Presbyterian Church are the only schools which still use corporal punishment. This constitutes unlawful interference in the lives of Christians by the State since the use of occasional appropriate physical punishment is an essential element of the order of family discipline ordained by God.

It is an act of the highest hypocrisy for the likes of Martin McGuinness to criticise the punishment and discipline of wrongdoing amongst children as set forth in God's Word. When we think of his involvement with murderers, knee-cappers, punishment squads who have maimed and crippled their victims and enforced banishments at the barrel of a gun, it beggars belief that he should seek to ban one of the elements of discipline ordained by God.

It was by the means of criminal and barbaric beatings and shootings that McGuinness has arrived in the position he presently occupies. He who freely associates with those members of the IRA engaged in criminal activities, in order to impose their will upon a people, would now put forth his hand to deny parents the right and freedom of exercising God-ordained discipline upon their own children.

It says something about the plan to remove this God-given right from Christian parents when Martin McGuinness is its patron saint! Of course, this will not stop at schools. The right of parents to discipline their children and the Christian to obey God, in their own homes, will soon be targeted.

Rev. Ivan Foster, Convenor of the Presbytery Education Board of the Free Presbyterian Church, was asked to comment on McGuinness's plan. He indicated that the Free Presbyterian Church would most certainly resist such a move by whatever means they considered wise and appropriate. In an interview on BBC's "Good Morning Ulster" programme, Mr. Foster was confronted by a spokesman of the NSPCC, Mr. Colin Reid. The NSPCC has long campaigned for a ban on all corporal punishment of children in schools and in homes. Mr. Reid was told by Mr. Foster during the interview that he must have found it embarrassing to be aligned with Martin McGuinness on this issue. The IRA has been the cause of the greatest suffering amongst children in Northern Ireland during the last 30 years. Its terrorism has murdered, mutilated and orphaned hundreds and hundreds of children. The people of Ulster need to consider this the next time they are asked to support the NSPCC. It is clear that the organisation is using its funds in common cause with Sinn Fein to remove the God-given right of parents to raise their children as God commands. X