



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

---

### Reaction To The Referendum Result

**The local newspaper in the Fermanagh and south west Tyrone area, The Impartial Reporter, invited a number of ministers and other public figures to write a comment on the result of the "Peace" Agreement. Among those asked to comment was Rev. Ivan Foster, the editor of "The Burning Bush" who has preached in the area for over 30 years. The following article was published on 28th May.**

For me, it was refreshing to see from the results of the referendum that there was a remnant of some 275,000 citizens (28.88% of voters), the most of whom were loyalists, still standing defiantly and ready to vote "NO" after the bullying onslaught of the political and ecclesiastical propaganda machine had swept over Ulster.

The Prime Minister, presidents, millionaires, ecumenical churches, the Roman Catholic church, the Ulster Unionist party, the SDLP, Sinn Fein, the Alliance party, the loyalist fringe parties, the various greedy, grasping business and professional groups, and many, many more -- all united to threaten, bribe and seek to cow Ulster into saying "YES" to the peace deal, and yet 275,000 said "NO".

I believe that it is an incontrovertible fact that many of those who voted "YES" were not endorsing the agreement but rather, in spite of their doubts about arms de-commissioning, prisoner releases and cross-border institutions and the advancing of the prospect of a United Ireland that the Agreement entailed, were prepared to overrule their common sense, and hope that a lesser level of violence might result from an "endorsement" of it. Concealed within the "YES" vote is a strong "NO" to what the Agreement is really all about. Before too long that "NO" will surface as the reality of the United Ireland programme that the NIO, the SDLP and Sinn Fein are following becomes obvious. When that happens, those leaders of the unionist parties that campaigned for a "YES" will find themselves faced with the difficult task of explaining how their promises and much publicised assurances have all unravelled.

Sometimes a politician's unrehearsed comment tells you more of what he is really thinking than does a thousand carefully crafted speeches! An example of this was seen in Tony Blair's statement after the referendum that it was his hope that 30 years from now "no one in Ulster will give a . . . whether they are a Protestant or a Roman Catholic." Mr. Blair's vision of Ulster is that of an ecumenist and the Agreement that is very much his production embodies that spirit. That being so, it is an agreement that is anti-Protestant and anti-Bible. It is the clearest harbinger of the age spoken of by the prophets and apostles and by the Saviour Himself in which delusions regarding peace will dominate the people who believe that abandonment of Scriptural principles and the Bible's revelation of God is the way to happiness and prosperity.

That is a delusion fated to come to an abrupt and terrifying end.