

**TRADITIONAL UNIONIST CONFERENCE
ROYAL HOTEL, COOKSTOWN,
26th November, 2016**

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my privilege to welcome you all here today to the 2016 Conference of the T.U.V. This year is the 100th Anniversary of a defining and sad year in our History. We recall with pride the actions of our forebears in the Great War and condemn the I.R.A. who sought to defeat the U.K. This year finds us as the only professing Unionist Party in Northern Ireland that was founded upon the principle that the Belfast agreement was a vehicle created to destroy the unity of the United Kingdom and gradually move us into a united Republican Ireland. Some other parties said at the time that they were of the same opinion as us but once the possibility of Political office became a fact their principles became inconvenient and were swiftly abandoned.

That behaviour leaves us as the sole Party in Northern Ireland claiming to be Unionist that still believes that only principles, integrity and honesty can provide a solid foundation for a successful constitutional and political structure.

All the Parties that lay claim to the description of Unionist say that they exist to protect and enhance the Unity of the United Kingdom. Yet they support the present devolved structures here which don't do that and the same is equally evident in Scotland and in Wales.

The campaigns of Irish Republican terrorism 1956/61 and the much larger horrors visited upon us since 1968 are now described as the "troubles" and the deaths resulting as "killings". This language is despicable for it is intended to diminish in the minds of listeners the

real savagery of that long, carefully planned and viciously executed campaign of I.R.A. terrorist violence and propaganda.

When the IRA/SF didn't manage to get immediately the United Socialist Ireland they sought they settled for the Trojan Horse now parked in the debating chamber at Stormont. Their objective, however, has not shifted one inch - that Horse is for them simply a temporary staging post.

The overt violence has subsided to a lower level, but still continues.. Furthermore, the consequences of those years are still with us in society at large and most acutely in family graves, in the diminished lives, shattered careers and broken bodies and minds of the innocent victims of Republican actions. Indeed, that I.R.A. violence was the source from which all other evils flowed.

In addition, although the everyday cycle of bombs and murders no longer dominate our news channels the propaganda has snowballed. We witnessed in action the armalite and ballot paper policy and now the vastly increased propaganda onslaught, all part of the same process. We are living through a period when the history of Northern Ireland and in particular the events of the last I.R.A. murder campaign is being written in such a way as to justify the murders committed for political advantage and condemn those who opposed the murderers. Dublin pours out its honeyed words of sympathy but I don't forget that those who murdered were not extradited to face Justice.

We are all aware that large numbers of Unionists no longer vote in Northern Ireland and many Press commentators have mused on the reasons why. The same has been true of voting patterns in Great Britain and in America, and the same questions asked as to the reasons for this. I believe that it is now clear why. Those electors were fed up

with pious platitudes from the successive Governments who had not paid attention to their concerns. The suppressed fury has manifested itself in various ways but especially in the European Referendum and the United States Presidential election. I believe that the election of Mr. Corbyn to the leadership of the Labour Party is another expression of that anger.

The political and social elites forgot that the billionaire and the homeless wino have exactly the same weight in the ballot box.

In our country the questions were:- Who governs us - ourselves or others?

Are we a nation state or a large local Council in Europe?

Have we the right to set a target for our total population?

Have we the right to determine who can come and live in our Country or not?

Do we want to be a free independent Sovereign Nation or not?

It was due to those same questions that on past occasions other European nations were required to have a second vote on aspects of the expanding powers of the European Union and also why some Irish republicans voted for Brexit.

Those who wished to remain looked mainly at economic issues and didn't seem to understand that there is more to national identity than money. Many of them seemed to me to be people who knew the price of everything and the value of nothing. A nations identity is not really about that. Rather, it is about knowing the value of what we have, the price of keeping those valuable possessions which we enjoy as U.K.citizens living under the rule of a constitutional Monarchy. Equally it is about the real cost of giving those things away.

Let no one be in any doubt as to the attitude of those who want to stay in the European Union. They will fight tooth and nail to undermine and overturn the Brexit decision. Those who conceived the concept of the E.U. knew that they could not create a United States of Europe in one fell swoop. It had to be a slow, generational process moving by small incremental steps towards their desired objective - they thought and planned for decades. That objective, which was clearly understood by them was also perceived by those who objected. We knew that the whole project could only be brought to fruition when Europe had a single Sovereign Government, a single President, a single currency, a single all Europe budget, set by a single Financial Ministry controlling all taxes and expenditure; that is oversight of all economic policy.

As we move forward in the process of our Country leaving the E.U. do not be under any illusions; so far as the E.U. Continental political class is concerned the Continental interests will be paramount. They know that a successful U.K. departure can easily undermine the whole structure.

Our neighbours in the Irish Republic don't want that, for they have done well financially out of the E.U., at least so far. They also know that in the future the Countries of Eastern Europe will become the main beneficiaries of the E.U. funds. Who then will support their demands, what greater economic nation will hold their hand?

That said, I am sure that there is more to it than that for we are now being subjected to a flood of the "fear factor" propaganda in a Northern Ireland context.

Why should the departure of the U.K. increase the possibility of renewed violence here as some insinuate? Do we know all that was agreed in the background of the Anglo Irish agreement, are there

unknown protocols there and around the Belfast agreement? What lay behind Margaret Thatcher's unguarded slip of the tongue to Jim Molyneaux that 'undertakings had been given'?

Leaving that aside, and having looked at the question of who Governs the U.K. from the European perspective I wish to finish by taking a look at who is really driving public policy in N.I. Who is really in charge?

Parliament is, of course, supreme, but what of the local scene? The system of enforced coalition which pertains here results in politicians who have head-on opposing opinions as to the constitutional position of Northern Ireland being asked to set their deepest convictions aside and agree on what items the available money shall be spent. The control of money is the central fact of Government power and no one should forget that.

While the constitutional question underlies the approach of both the D.U.P. and SF/IRA the divisions don't end there. There is a huge gap between the views of these parties on Education, Health provision, Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Welfare, and for that matter nearly everything else on which Public money is spent. As a result we find one of these Parties in control of a Department in one Assembly, setting targets and expenditure, and in the next Assembly the other Party takes over that Department and reverses the previous decisions. In addition, S.F, as an avowedly Socialist Party is fundamentally opposed to the whole capitalist system.

So whose will prevails?

SF/IRA don't fear the collapse of Stormont for they will always blame the Unionist Parties for obstructionist tactics. Hitherto, they have

received support from their electorate and from all who want this process at Stormont to continue.

As a consequence every time there is a crisis they gain a few more concessions as to what policy is followed because their partners in Government, and out of Government, will give way to their continual demands in order to keep the show on the road. In practice this means that this Enforced Coalition Power sharing, founded as it is on the pious hope that SF/IRA will work for the good of Northern Ireland within the U.K. is a falsehood of great importance and consequence. This is because in a crises, usually manufactured; e.g., Welfare Reform, the minority view prevails in some areas and accumulates over time until it becomes dominant. In other words, our power sharing system is nothing short of minority rule in a concealed and therefore particularly pernicious form.

There is no agreement about the past, no agreement about the future save only that a majority of one will take us into a United Republican Ireland, preferably for SF/IRA a Socialist Ireland.

Jim Allister I thank you for your voice on the Hill - the only voice of reason and sound judgement there. The only voice that all the other Parties are trying to smother. You are doing singlehandedly a wonderful job for Ulster Unionism.

I pray that the same Unionists who cheer you from their armchairs will realise that just like the ignored in the U.K. and America who finally understood that their vote would count if they used it, went out and voted and won. It can be done here too.

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Dunbar

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6/12/16

Dear Allen,

I enclose a copy of my remarks at the E.V.V.
Conference last month.

I hope you find them of interest,

Yours truly
