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DON'T BE DUPed

THE DUP ARE NOT DEMOCRATS!



"... the pattern is horribly familiar. The contempt for established authority; the crude and unthinking intolerance; the emphasis upon monster processions and rallies; the appeal to a perverted from of patriotism each and every one of those things has its parallel in the rise of the Nazi's to power. A minority movement was able, in the end to work its will simply because most people were too apathetic or too intimidated to speak out. History must not be allowed to repeat itself." [1]

-Northern Premier, Terrence O'Neill speaking about Paisleyism in June 1969.

In 1969 Paisley's 'Protestant Unionists' won 3.8% of the vote. In the 2005 British general election Paisley's DUP moved within grasp of the first ministers office when they became the single largest political party in the North with 33.7% of the vote. Since his first involvement in electoral politics in 1958 Ian Paisley and his supporters have built successful careers for themselves through an ambiguous and hypocritical relationship with loyalist paramilitary killers, inciting them one day and disowning them the next.

The UVF member, Hugh McClean, who murdered John Scullion and 18 year old Peter Ward in the summer of 1966, said:

"I am terribly sorry I ever heard tell of that man Paisley or decided to follow him".[2]

Thousands of Irish people would have good cause to agree with that statement over the following 40 years.

If a man can be judged by the company he keeps the Rev. Ian Paisley has had some very strange and unsavoury acquaintances in the past whom he has used and then abandoned as fitted his own ends. Men such as his homosexual bodyguard, and founder of loyalist paramilitary groups the SDA and RHC, John McKeague. Another is the British spy, founder of the paramilitary group TARA, Orangeman, British Israelite and child molester, William McGrath. While many other senior loyalist paramilitaries attended his church like the UVF leaders Ken Gibson and alleged Dublin bomber, Billy Mitchell, UDA psychopathic killer Davey Payne and UDA brigadier Tommy Herron [3]. UPV leaders Noel Doherty, who set up Paisley's 'Protestant Telegraph' and who was jailed for explosives offences in 1966 and Major Ronald Bunting who attacked Burntollett were also later disowned.

More than any other single individual the Rev. Ian Paisley has done more to stoke the fires of sectarian hatred, engineer the outbreak of communal violence in the late 1960's and incite decades of sectarian slaughter since then. In September 1975 the UDA leader Andy Tyrie said that he would blame Paisley and other unionist leaders for all future killings in Northern Ireland after they rejected voluntary coalition.[4]

Paisley has created or belonged to numerous paramilitary organisations beginning with Ulster Protestant Action in 1956, a group which stockpiled weapons and was later turned into a Paisleyite electoral machine. In 1966 Paisley became the founding chairman of the Ulster Constitution Defence Committee and the Ulster Protestant Volunteers. The UPV became the nucleus of the re-emerging UVF and played a major role in the sabotage bombing campaign which blew O'Neill out of office in 1969 as well as the ambush attacks on peaceful civil rights marchers in Armagh City in 1968, Burntolett Bridge in January and riots in Derry and Belfast in August 1969. In 1974 Paisley sat alongside the leaders of the UDA and UVF in the Ulster Workers Council committee whose strike brought down the Sunningdale agreement. In May 1977 Paisley's United Ulster Action Council called another strike which failed despite renewed intimidation and three murders.

In February 1981 Paisley launched his 'Carson trail' around the North by leading 500 men waving firearms certificates up a hillside in Co. Antrim. In November of that year Paisley launched a paramilitary 'Third Force' which attracted 15,000 people to a rally in Newtownards many dressed in paramilitary uniform. At it he said, "My men are ready to be recruited under the crown to destroy the vermin of the IRA. But if they refuse to recruit them, then we will have no other decision to make but to destroy the IRA ourselves!...We will exterminate the IRA!" [5]

In 1985 many leading DUP politicians became members of the 20,000 strong paramilitary 'Ulster Clubs' founded by Alan Wright which had on its ruling committee the UDA Brigadier, John McMichael and the Mid Ulster UVF commander. At an Ulster Clubs meeting in Larne Paisley said "If the British government force us down the road to a united Ireland we will fight to the death...This could come to hand to hand fighting in every street in Northern Ireland. We are on the verge of civil war...We are asking people to be ready for the worst and I will lead them".[6]

But the Ulster Clubs were merely a warm up for yet another Paisleyite paramilitary enterprise-'Ulster Resistance' which was launched in the Ulster hall on the 10th November 1986. This meeting was chaired by the future DUP M.P., Sammy Wilson and attended by Ian Paisley, Peter Robinson and Gregory Campbell among other DUP politicians. In 1988 members of UR were involved in a plot to smuggle arms from South Africa to be used by loyalist paramilitaries to murder innocent Catholics.

Paisley and many of his followers have lengthy criminal records and have been arrested, fined and imprisoned on scores of occasions since August 1957.

Rev Willie McCrea M.P. was a member of the Shankill Defence Association in 1969 (the group which was largely responsible for the anti Catholic pogrom in Belfast that August) [7], in 1971 he was convicted of riotous behaviour in Dungiven [8], in 1981 he acted as a 'county commander' for the Third Force as did another DUP politician Rev. Ivan Foster. In 1975 he led a prayer service at the paramilitary funerals of Wesley Somerville and Harris Boyle who were responsible for Miami showband massacre and Dublin and Monaghan bombings. In 1996 he shared a platform at a rally supporting the UVF/LVF mass murderer, Billy Wright.

DUP deputy leader, Peter Robinson MP, was the chairman of the Lagan valley UPV in 1966 [9], and associated with the Third Force and Ulster Resistance. In August 1986 he led 500 loyalists in a cross border incursion to take over the village of Clontibret, Co. Monaghan, which led to the injury of two gardai and his arrest. In a subsequent court appearance in Dundalk he again led a large loyalist mob into the town which led to a riot. At his trial the Judge described him as "a senior extremist politician". In 1988 both he and his wife Iris (now also a DUP M.P) were imprisoned at the same time.

Gregory Campbell the recently elected DUP M.P. was involved in the loyalist riots in Derry in August 1969 [10] and was a supporter of the Ulster Clubs in 1985 and Ulster Resistance.

Another characteristic of DUP politics is spiteful anti Catholic sectarianism.

In September 1969 Paisley wrote to the British Home Secretary telling him the cause of high Catholic unemployment and poor housing was because "these people breed like rabbits and multiply like vermin" [11]. In Omagh in 1981 Paisley said "Our ancestors cut a civilisation out of the bogs and meadows of this country while Mr Haughey's ancestors were wearing pig skins and living in caves." [12]

On the 29th May 1984 Belfast DUP councillor George Seawright said of Catholics "Taxpayers money would be better spent on an incinerator and burning the whole lot of them. The priests should be thrown in and burned as well" [13]. John Bingham a senior UVF leader suspected of involvement in the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings acted as Seawright's election agent. After Bingham was killed by the IRA in 1986 Seawright called for retaliation while Nigel Dodds (now a DUP M.P.) and other senior DUP politicians visited the Bingham home to offer condolences [14].

Recently the media have allowed the DUP to flounce around in the pilfered glad rags of democratic respectability but as we have seen there is nothing democratic about the DUP. Rather Ian Paisley and his apostles of hate are northern loyalism equivalent of Radovan Karadzic who have disgorged a torrent of sectarian bile and fomented an anti-Catholic jihad over the past 40 years. How can such a party be entrusted with executive power? Surely if anyone needs a period of 'quarantine' it is the DUP.

- Paul McGuill Runaí

- [1] The UVF 1966-73, David Boulton, page 44; [2] The UVF 1966-73, David Boulton, page 51; [3] Paisley, Moloney & Pollack, page 242; [4] The UDA, McDonald & Cusack, page 89;
- [5] 20 Years, Michael Hall, page193; [6] Loyalists, Peter Taylor, page 187;

[7] Paisley, Moloney & Pollack, page 193;

- [8] Nothern Ireland: A Political Directory, Flackes & Elliot, page 180;
 [9] Paisley, Moloney & Pollack, page 288; [10] Loyalists, Peter Taylor, page 65;
 [11] The UVF 1966-73, David Boulton, page 126; [12] Paisley, Moloney & Pollack, page 193;
 [13] Nothern Ireland: A Chronology Of The Troubles, Bew & Gillespie, page 178;
- [14] Lost Lives, McKitterick, Kelters, Feeney & Thornton, page 1049.

For Futher Information Contact:

Tom Cooper [Cathaoirleach]: (01) 49 41 708

Paul McGuill [Runai]: 087 12 38 390

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