



LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE Isaiah 62:10

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Vote the right way in Assembly poll

Political turmoil

THE current political turmoil in the Province has renewed the argument about whether the links between the Orange Institution and the Ulster Unionist Party should be formally ended.

There are those who argue in favour of such a move, saying it would benefit Unionism and make it more attractive for Roman Catholics who are pro-Union.

On the other hand there are many who steadfastly maintain that the Orange-Unionist link is a necessity in safeguarding Northern Ireland's position within the link should end.

We would stress that the views published are those of the contributors and not of the 'Orange Standard' but we believe it is democratic and helpful to the political process, as well as to the well-being of the Order to allow people to put their viewpoint on this important issue.

The 'Standard' would also welcome letters from readers on the topic.

The cause of Unionism and Orangeism has not been advanced by the traumatic fall-out during the referendum campaign last month on the Stormont agreement.

The only beneficiary from this disunity and petty squabbling which was caused by the Ulster Unionist Council's surprise acceptance of the Good Friday deal has been the pan-Irish nationalist front

Throughout the debate leading into the referendum the Orange Order through the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has taken a consistent principled line that it could not recommend the agreement to the greater number of people in Northern Ireland.

This position has been supported by the overwhelming majority of lodge

members throughout Northern Ireland, as reflected by the various resolutions and motions passed by county, district and private lodges.

The general view within Orangeism remains that the Good Friday deal is not in the best interests of the Unionist community and we must continue to highlight and change the deficiencies therein.

An election to a devolved assembly at Stormont will take place this month and it is vital that as many Unionists as

possible are returned to oppose undemocratic and unjust measures such as:

- * All-Ireland bodies with executive powers.
- * The early release of terrorist prisoners.
- * Inclusion of mechanisms designed to make further concessions to the Sinn Fein/Provisional IRA.
- * Major changes in the standing of the RUC to suit a republican agenda.
- * The continued operation of a Dublin secretariat on Northern Ireland soil.
- * The inclusion of unreformed terrorists in executive positions.

The decommissioning of illegal terrorist weaponry must also be demanded by Unionists elected to the new Assembly and we must ensure that the right people are returned to fully represent the majori-

ty community in this Province.

In the referendum, a majority of the unionist people voted 'No'.

Remember, vote only for those unionists you can trust!

Wrong move

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has slammed the proposals for setting up a Commission to review the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Grand Lodge believes that the Chief Constable and his senior officers have the ability to review their role, without interference.

"The suggestion of the appointment of the last Governor of Hong Kong, Mr. Chris Patten, to head a Commission to reform the Royal Ulster Constabulary will bring no comfort to the members of the Loyal Orange Institution.

"It must be remembered that in the mid-1980s when Mr. Patten was a Minister in the Northern Ireland Office, that it was he who made the infamous decision in the City of Londonderry to change the council name to Derry City Council," said the Grand Lodge statement.

ONE of the most ridiculous arguments used in the 'Yes' campaign on the Stormont Agreement was that if Ulster people did not support the Agreement they would be friendless throughout the world - a race of pariahs!

That argument was put forward in all seriousness and it reveals the extent to which those who seek to undermine loyal Ulster are prepared to go.

Ulster people have had nearly 30 years of a fear-some terror campaign inflicted on them, a campaign which cost 3,600 lives. Translated in mainland Britain terms that

would mean some 160,000 people killed - something which brings home the horror which loyal Ulstermen and women have had to endure.

It is true, of course, due in large measure to misinformation and the superiority of the republican propaganda campaign that Ulster has mainly had a bad press across the war and in other parts of the world.

This has distorted the true picture and it has

resulted in Ulster people being on the receiving end of ignorant allegations down the years.

In no way, however, should incessant anti-Ulster propaganda and its effects be used as a reason for Ulstermen and women to vote according to their conscience - especially when their country's future is at stake, and their very future as a race and an identifiable ethnic people.

The fact is that the free-

dom of Ulster people to choose what they want their future to be was purchased at the cost of a huge amount of blood by their gallant forefathers. Ulster's service to the Crown goes back to the days of the Plantation, the atrocities of 1641, the 1688-90 period, and the loyalty of Yeomanry soldiers in the 1798 Rebellion.

In more recent times Ulster's men and women have given of their lives in two World Wars and many

other conflicts. How dare supporters of the 'Yes' cause to claim that defeat for a political formula would mean loyal Ulster people being regarded as pariahs.

The United Kingdom is now very much a pluralist society, and millions of the citizens are originally from the former Empire and new Commonwealth. Those people are now rightly regarded as full British citizens and few would dare to challenge that assumption

on the mainland.

How dare anyone to question the right of proud Ulster people to be considered inferior or outcasts in any way because they may vote contrary to what a British Government might wish.

Would anyone dare to suggest that Scots should be held up to ridicule because a sizeable number want independence or that Welsh people should not have equal rights because they want more say in their affairs?

Why should Ulster be any different? It insults the intelligence of Northern Ireland people - and the memory of the gallant dead of the Province - to suggest such a thing.

Democratic right to vote 'No'

Portadown women take their stand



PORTADOWN WOMEN have taken their stand for the Orangemen of that town having the right to parade along a main thoroughfare - Garvaghy Road - on their return from the traditional Orange service at Drumcree.

The 'Women of Portadown' proudly carried the Union Jack and Ulster flag at the head of the parade - and by doing so demonstrated that the fair sex are often the most loyal when it comes to making a stand.

Recently the writer saw a photograph of three women proudly displaying a Union Jack and it prompted the thought as to what became of those brave young women.

The poignant photograph was in a Southern Irish magazine and it showed three loyal Dublin girls declaring their allegiance to the Union Jack as they stood on the quayside at Dublin's North Wall in 1922 as the last British soldiers left the southern capital.

In 1922 there was still a large Protestant and loyal

population in what is now the 26 counties of the Irish Republic. That population was strong enough to hold public Armistice Day services throughout the 1920s and 30s until republican violence forced the loyal Dubliners and those in other parts of the country to forego that right.

A quiet and decent Protestant businessman called Armstrong was murdered in that period because he displayed Flanders poppies in his shop windows, and British Legion standards carried at the head of Dublin branches were thrown into the Liffey.

Gradually, what had been a strong and vibrant unionist and loyalist population in Dublin and the south was eliminated. There were about 400,000 Protestants in the Irish Free State in 1921 and today there are less than 100,000.

In the decade after Partition over 200,000 Protestants fled the south, many of them forced out of the home their families had lived in for generations.

There was an exodus to

Britain, to Northern Ireland and to Dominions like Canada.

It's not a period of history that Southern Irish politicians like to be reminded about, and down the years there have been unconvincing excuses put forward for the huge reduction in the Protestant population. Some southern observers even try to pretend that Protestants were not forced out in sizeable numbers.

They would have to try hard to convince the survivors of those Protestants and Unionists who fled the South in the 1920s and live in parts of Northern Ireland, or their children and grandchildren who have heard about the ethnic cleansing carried out in those days.

Belfast, Portadown, Lisburn, Banbridge and other towns were havens in the 1920s for Protestants who fled Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal, as well as other parts of the south like Kingstown, Bray, Brandon and the midlands.

They were often forced out at gunpoint and in too

many cases had to flee after members of their families had been murdered. The vast majority of these refugees were quiet, Christian people who sought conflict with no-one and whose only crime was loyalty.

There is a willingness on the part of many people in the Republic today to face up to the facts about this shameful episode in Irish history, but far too many still prefer the facts to be hidden.

Recently on southern television a Protestant who belongs to the Church of Ireland described how, as a young man, he was forced to his knees because he did not pay homage to a statue which was being carried by a huge number of Roman Catholics crossing O'Connell Bridge during the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 1932.

That man's sense of outrage is still acute and even after all those years he was disgusted that as a member of the Church of Ireland he had been physically forced to take part in a public action of support

for an act which was not part of his religious convictions.

All this brings us back to the case of those three young Dublin girls who said their sad farewells to the Tommies as they left the shores of Ireland for home in 1922. Did those girls stay in the 'new Ireland' or did they, like so many of their co-religionists move out to start a new life in Britain or perhaps even Northern Ireland? It would be interesting to know the answer to that intriguing question but the odds are that they would have found the new Irish Free State so alien to their British-Irish culture that they would have been forced to move to more freer climes.

The 'Women of Portadown' and other Ulster towns have no wish to have to bow the knee to republican terror and to submerge their British and Ulster culture. Their numerical strength and the dogged Ulster fighting spirit will be a key element in the continuing struggle to keep the Union Jack flying over this beleaguered part of the United Kingdom.



Former District Master honoured

RICHHILL Orangemen have honoured their former District Master, Bro. Kenneth Kelly by presenting him with a 50-year medal and certificate.

The medal and certificate recognise the dedicated service Bro. Kelly has given to Ballyleaney LOL No.11 during the past half-century.

Bro. Kelly also presided over the affairs of Richhill during a period of great expansion and supervised the highly praised arrangements for the County Armagh 12th July celebrations four years ago when Richhill District LOL No.2 hosted the demonstration.

The medal and certificate were presented to Bro. Kelly at a ceremony in Ballyleaney Orange Hall, Richhill, by Bro. Matthew Clarke, District Master.

Other brethren who paid tribute to Bro. Kelly included Bros. Roger Gill, Victor Bell, Trevor Anderson and Joe Lester.

"Make or break time"

THE Good Friday agreement hammered out at Stormont attracted serious discussion at a special meeting of Kilrea District LOL No. 5.

The document was dissected by several leading members with not one voice in favour. Lodge members found that the "preposterous" claims of John Taylor and Ken Maginnis were altogether too good to be wholesome.

The dereliction of justice in favour of releasing many of Europe's most heinous criminals early from prison and the giving of top committee posts to "unreconstructed" members of Sinn Fein/IRA caused most outrage. While the government's promise to promote Irish culture at the expense of British culture came a close third.

The Kilrea LOL No.5 officers have consulted with all of the six private lodges in the district. They acknowledge that the referendum on May 22 is "make or break time" as far as the cherished union with Britain is concerned. They are unanimous in their resolve to vote against the agreement and they fully support all those responsible unionist leaders who are backing the "NO" campaign.

Articles from readers most welcome



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OBITUARY

WOR. BRO. ADAM BUSTARD

County Donegal Grand Master

THE death has taken place suddenly at his home in Screen, Co. Donegal of Wor. Bro. Adam Bustard.

Bro. Bustard led a busy and active life. He made a valuable contribution in the community around him and to the organisations in which he was involved. He was a caring family man, who was devoted to his wife Florrie and family, and was a life-long member of the select vestry and a faithful attender of Laghey Church of Ireland.

Amongst his qualities were his steadfastness and commitment to the Orange Order, Royal Black Institution, Ballinakillew Apprentice Boys, Masonic Order and Moyne Pipe Band.

His rector, Canon Trimble, who conducted the service paid tribute to Bro. Bustard, assisted by Bro. John Deane, Lay Chaplain of Bro. Bustard's private Orange lodge. Bro. Bustard's grandson, Bro. Robert Love read a lesson and Canon Trimble laid his badge of office on the coffin during the service in the church. Among those present were Grand Lodge of Ireland officers and many other brethren from most Northern Ireland counties, and the brethren of Counties Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Raphoe District No.3 and the officers and brethren of Co. Donegal.

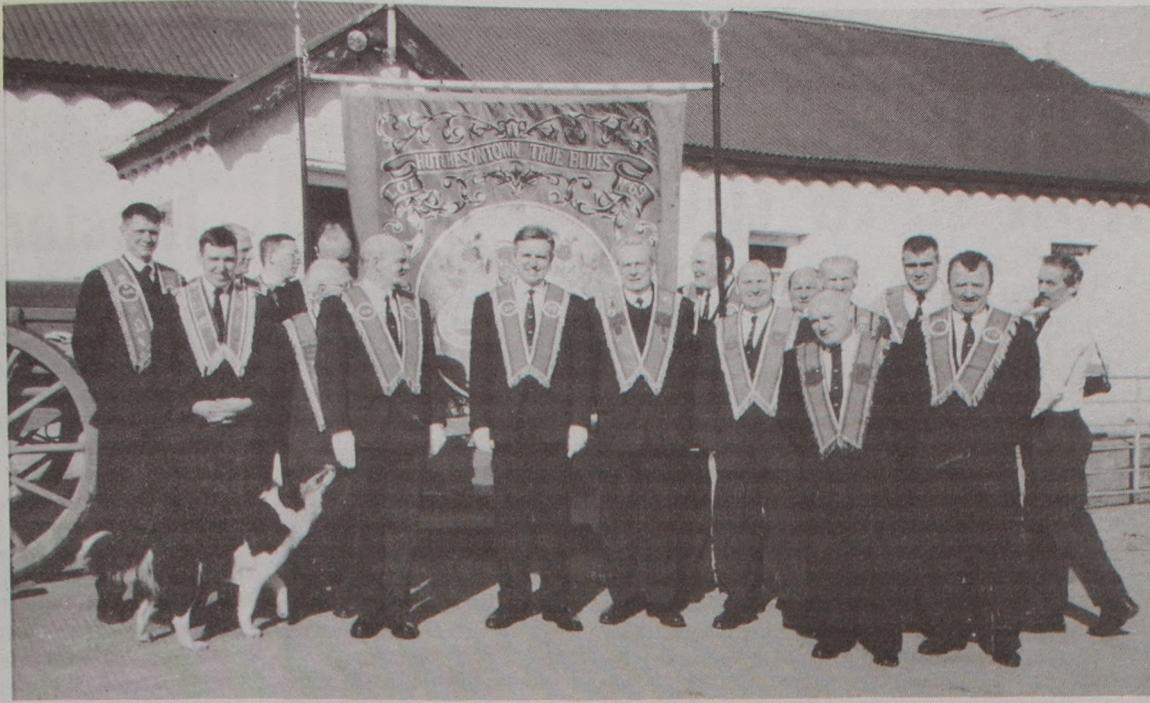
A memorial service in thanksgiving for the life and work of Wor. Bro. Adam Bustard was held in Laghey Parish Church.

The late Wor. Bro. Bustard who was 84 when he died, had been a member of the Loyal Orange Institution of Ireland for 67 years; Master of Moyne LOL No.1145 for 59 years; Deputy Master of Ballintra District No.1 for 22 years; County Grand Master of Donegal for 20 years and Deputy Grand Master of Ireland for 14 years.



Wor. Bro. Warren Porter, Assistant Grand Master of Ireland, also Grand Chaplain of Ireland, gave the address and paid a very fine tribute to Bro. Bustard. The collection was for the LEMOOS.

The Grand Master of Ireland, Wor. Bro. Robert Saulters, and other Grand Lodge officers, county officers, district officers and private lodge officers paid glowing tributes to Wor. Bro. Bustard and sympathised with his wife and family.



Brethren of LOL No.69 from Glasgow at Dan Winter's Cottage.

Scottish brethren at Loughgall

AN all-Scotland dimension was in evidence at the famous landmark in the Diamond, Co. Armagh, recently when the first duly constituted meeting of a lodge from the Scottish jurisdiction held their April meeting in Dan Winter's Cottage in the picturesque surroundings at Loughgall.

Hutchesontown True Blues LOL No.69, members of Glasgow Southside Orange and Purple District No.49, held a momentous and unique meeting on Saturday, April 11, to celebrate this special year in the history of their lodge. On November 22, 1929, the inauguration of LOL No.69 took place in the Dixon halls, Glasgow. The lodge therefore celebrates the 69th anniversary of their warrant this year and decided to mark the milestone in a unparalleled manner befitting such an unusual anniversary.

Last year the lodge treasurer, Bro. Eddie McGonnell, had the delightful opportunity to visit Dan Winter's Cottage whilst he was on holiday last July, and was overwhelmed with the hospitality shown to him by his very informative

guide for the day, Mrs. Hilda Winter.

Bro. McGonnell was informed by the lady in question that recently a number of lodges in Ulster had in fact held a meeting in this profoundly moving location. Bro. McGonnell then asked Mrs. Winter as to her feelings regarding a lodge from Scotland convening in Dan's home, and was given a very enthusiastic response. On his return he conveyed this to his lodge meeting and unanimously the lodge decided to take up the offer from Mrs. Winter.

Considering the pitfalls in trying to arrange such a matter between the two different jurisdictions of our Orange family, the lodge sought the counsel of their Grand Secretary, Bro. Jack Ramsay in how to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. Bro. Ramsay contacted his Grand Lodge counterpart in Ireland, and almost immediately, approval was given by the Co. Grand Lodge of Armagh and GOLI. The dream had now become a reality!

On arrival at the cottage the Glasgow brethren were met with an extremely warm welcome, in more ways than one! On proceeding into Dan's living room for

the lodge meeting they were met by a beautiful log fire, which lent a special ambience to the historical surroundings.

The meeting was opened by the Worthy Master, Bro. Jim Struthers, who gave a very moving address considering the surroundings and the fact that he had become the first Scotsman as Worthy Master to have the privilege to open a meeting under the auspices of the GOLS in the very cradle of our illustrious Orange Institution.

The humble moment of the day was when their longest serving member, Bro. Harry Bryan, PM and Bro. Alex Gilmour, PM, HDGM, County Grand Lodge of Glasgow led in Mr. Donald Bryan for reinstatement into Lodge No.69. Bro. Bryan senior's son now lives in Comber, Co. Down and having intimated his intention to rejoin the lodge, the members felt it would be fitting to reinstate at this significant occasion. 20 members were in attendance and a special thanks must go to the only visitor present at the meeting, Bro. Eddie Leitch, DM, LOL, for taking care of all travelling arrangements.

At the conclusion of the thought-provoking meeting Mrs. Winter presented LOL No.69 with a signed diploma denoting them as "Scotland's First" which was followed by the lodge chaplain Bro. George Wilson saying grace, before brethren were treated to a spread laid on by Mrs. Hilda Winter. An informal chat then took place with Mrs. Winter's knowledge and enthusiasm for depicting the "bygone days of yore", an enjoyable occasion which would stir the heart of any Orangeman fortunate enough to speak to this remarkable lady.

The only sad note was the absence of lodge founder member, Bro. James Addies who sadly passed away on February 3, at the grand old age of 91, giving a lifetime of service to the lodge (69 years). Also the tragic blow the brethren received on their return to Glasgow to find their secretary, Bro. James Gormley, who had put so much hard work into the ground-breaking trip but unfortunately was too ill to travel, sadly seen him pass to the Grand Lodge above, two days after the meeting.

To these two brethren Lodge No.69 dedicate this momentous achievement.

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WM Bro. Jim Struthers presents Mrs. Hilda Winter with a cheque for restoration fund.

Sandy Row boost for Brownlow House

On the occasion of the installation dinner of No.3 Royal Black District Chapter, Sandy Row, Belfast the Worshipful District Master, Sir Knt. William Elliott, PM and Sir Knights of the District presented a cheque for the Brownlow House, Lurgan, Restoration Fund to Sir Knight Samuel Gardiner, County Grand Master of Armagh and Chairman of Brownlow House trustees.

The installation of officers was conducted by Sir Knight the Rev. Dr. Victor Ryan, IDGM, County Grand Master of the City of Belfast and Sir Knt. the Rev. William Hoey, PM, Deputy County Grand Master. They were assisted by Sir Knt. Fred McGookin, PM, IDGM, County Registrar and Sir Knt. James McConnell, PM, County Censor.



Pictured are, left to right: Sir Knights James Shaw, RBP No.1076; Eddie Morrow, District Chaplain, RBP No.329; William Elliott, WDM, RBP No.855; Samuel Gardiner, County Grand Master of Armagh; John Lyons, RBP No.901; John Smith, District Registrar, RBP No.1039 and Colin Berry, Deputy District Registrar, RBP No.330.

Lodge holds meeting in unlikely surroundings

A PORTADOWN Orange lodge recently held its monthly meeting in unlikely surroundings - a room in Dan Winter's cottage at the famous Diamond near Loughgall.

The brethren of Wesleyan Temperance LOL No.161 found it an inspiring and fascinating experience to hold their meeting in a cottage which means so much to the Orange Institution.

It ensured the biggest turnout at the lodge's monthly meeting in years and the brethren were not surprised to find that they were not the first to hold a meeting at this unique spot.

Mrs. Hilda Winter, owner of the cottage, who gave a brief account of the history of the cottage which played such a leading role in the formation of the Orange Order following the Battle of the Diamond in 1795, said there have been visits by other lodges from different areas of the Province in recent years.

The cottage, which was last lived in as a family home by members of the

Winter family including Hilda's husband, the late Robert Winter, in 1953, was built prior to 1760.

That in itself makes the cottage a priceless link with the past, as there are few buildings of that age still in existence in Northern Ireland.

What memories the cottage evokes. From those days in the 1760s the cottage has stood as a sentinel to Protestantism in this part of County Armagh during centuries of turbulence and upheaval which has seen the birth and demise of the world's mightiest empire - the British Empire - and the shifting fortunes of Irish Protestantism.

The cottage played a leading role in the birth of an Order which has spread in the two centuries since to far-flung corners of the Empire and Commonwealth. Men in far-off Toronto and Melbourne, in Capetown and Boston who, during their lifetime never set foot in Ireland cherished the name of the Diamond.

Thousands of Orangemen from Canada rallied to the cause of King

and Country in 1914, and to them the Diamond was the birthplace of their Order, which nurtured and encouraged their loyalty.

It has been the same closer to home in Scotland, that great Orange jurisdiction and Liverpool the home of English Orangeism - the cottage at the Diamond adorns many banners in those countries.

It is vital that the Order plans for the future and treasures the freedom and liberty handed down to the present. But it is also very important to remember the great legacy handed down from the past.

All great societies and organisations pay the utmost respect to their ori-

gins and recognise the importance of preserving buildings which have a link with their origin.

The Orange Order is no exception and that is why the Diamond is a name which is held in such high esteem.

The cottage is open daily and during the summer months Mrs. Winter is kept busy showing visitors,

many of them from overseas, around the building and the many interesting Orange artifacts and souvenirs.

After enjoying a cup of tea and eatables provided by Mrs. Winter, the brethren of LOL No.161, through their Worshipful Master, Bro. David Burrows, presented a sum of money

which will be used towards the upkeep of this famous cottage.

Mrs. Winter then presented the lodge with a certificate to mark their visit to the cottage.

Added interest for the brethren was that the Purple degree was conferred during the evening on their youngest member, Bro. Paul Proctor. The degree was administered by Bros. Bob Guy and Robert Oliver, and was one of the highlights of a memorable occasion.

Any lodge seeking information about visits to the cottage can phone Mrs. Winter at (01762) 851344. It is open daily from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm, Sundays 2 pm to 5.30 pm, and evening visits by request.



Positive action

A new group has been formed in Co. Antrim with the aim of supporting the Ulster Land and Property Company.

The Co. Antrim Loyal Orange Women's Support Group are producing a range of souvenirs bearing a specially commissioned logo.

The official launch of the souvenirs was held in West Belfast Orange Hall on Wednesday, April 15 in the presence of the Grand Mistress of the Association

of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland, Sister Doreen Williamson and the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Bro. Robert Saulters.

The group intend to produce such items as tea-spoons, tea towels and fridge magnets.

For further information please contact either Mrs. Jennifer Palmer, 18a Culcavy Road, Hillsborough or Mrs. Margaret Tolerton, 2 Killowen Mews, Lisburn.

Divine service

THE Apprentice Boys of Derry, Browning Club, Aughnacloy Branch, held their annual divine service in Aughnacloy Methodist Church on Sunday, May 3.

The parade to and from the church was led by Roughan Silver Band.

The service was conducted by the minister the Rev. J.W. Sweeney, who preached a most inspiring, challenging and spiritual uplifting sermon, taking the theme of his message from "The Cross of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ".

The Aughnacloy Methodist Church Quartet, led by Mr. Sweeney on guitar, sang two beautiful sacred pieces entitled "Pass Me Not O Gentle Saviour" and "Drinking at the Springs of Living Water".

The collection in aid of the Apprentice Boy Welfare Fund, was taken up by the Governor of the Apprentice Boys, Bro. Alistair Simpson and the chairman of the Mid-Ulster Amalgamated Committee, Bro. John McKennell.

During the service the Rev. Sweeney dedicated two new Union flags.

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Comment - Comment - Com

Unity is strength

WE are exceedingly unhappy with a situation which has unionists attacking unionists on matters of crucial importance to everyone who is for the Union. The main contention and contest is on who is strengthening or weakening the Union. Whatever the result of the Referendum it is certain, in the midst of uncertainties, that the reconciliation of those who voted NO or YES promises to be a daunting task. Publicly expressed disagreements in speeches and statements, and reported in the media in most derogatory, sometimes abusive terms, will not be forgotten. And yet it is a necessity for the future of Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom that unionists come together to ensure that the Union is maintained, and that those who would break the link are prevented from attaining their goal. It is hard to see how divided, shattered, Unionism can have the strength to withstand the pressures of those against it, openly as adversaries or covertly as false friends. Whatever the effect of the agreement and the result of the Referendum, there has to be an acceptance of that which changes the political environment here in ways likely to be revolutionary, certainly predictable in their consequences. There must be many uncertainties in the wake of decisions made by those who retain the means of disruption and destruction. Unpredictable, uncertain, are words appropriate for the way ahead regardless of what shape politics take. Because the Orange Institution has been heavily involved in the controversy over the agreement and Referendum with brethren holding contrary positions on them, the effect on us has been considerable. The meeting Orange leaders had with the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street on May 7 demonstrated the depth of their concern for what had been agreed. Grand Lodge officials articulated their unease on what they perceived as not having been properly addressed in the agreement - policing and the future of the RUC; prisoner release; republican participation in the proposed Assembly at executive level; and over all the fact that the gun and the bomb are not gone from the Ulster scene. Decommissioning is the philosophy of intent, but the practicalities of life here are that terrorism continues, and breakaway terror groups proliferate without restraint from the ceasefire paramilitary organisations to which they belonged. We are in that state when what is most needed is the acceptance of realities and the determination that whatever the cost the good of Ulster is what really matters. That could mean adapting to circumstances unexpected and unpleasant, but no one should doubt that there is a struggle ahead in which the union forces must be capable of facing up unitedly to the powers ranged against them. In unity is strength; in disunity is defeat and disaster.

DEBATE ON ORANGEISM

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland meeting in Dublin, May 11-15 heard a report on sectarianism in which reference was made to a meeting of a sub-committee on Loyal Orders at Church of Ireland House, Belfast, with Orange Order representatives, Lord Molyneaux, the Rev. Dr. S.E. Long and the Rev. William T. Hoey. There was a frank exchange of views, especially on the

relationship of the Church of Ireland and the Orange Institution in an exercise which we have reason to believe was educational and enlightening to the members of the sub-committee. It is necessary when looking at the relationship which has never been official, but always real and meaningful, to recall the age and extent of that association. A few categorical statements are necessary. Many founder members of the Orange Institution were members of the Church of Ireland. It was in defence of their church, faith and culture that they joined together to face their Roman Catholic attackers, the Defenders, at the Battle of the Diamond, in Co. Armagh, on September 21, 1795. The new Orange Order on its founding after the battle in Loughgall, produced a short time later, a service and ceremony to be used at lodge meetings. This ritual had an easily recognisable indebtedness to the Book of Common Prayer, 1662. The Protestant emphasis of Orangeism was originally Anglican. Presbyterian influence in size and consequence came after the Hillsborough Rally, October 30, 1834, when the Rev. Dr. Henry Cooke encouraged the coming together of Protestants in a pan-Protestantism which would be inclusive and not exclusive. Many of the leaders in Orangeism as its beginnings then was by laity and clergy of the Church of Ireland. Among the clergymen were T.F. Knipe, George Knipe, Snowden Cupples, George Maunsil and Philip Johnston were Orange Order officers from 1796. George Blacker is credited with writing "The Qualifications of an Orangeman", his father Stewart Blacker, preached the first sermon to Orangemen in Drumcree Parish Church in 1817 when he was rector of the parish. And also in the 19th century were Dr. Thomas Drew and Dr. Richard Rutledge Kane, successively rectors of Christ Church, Belfast. In this century there was Louis Crooks, William Eames, H.O. Lindsay, W.H.N. Fisher and Charles Harding; the bishops Dr. W.S. Kerr and Dr. Cyril Elliott and pre-1914 Dr. John Baptist Crozier, was Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland and an Orange Grand Lodge chaplain. It was as chaplains in lodges and often in the company of their parishioners that the clergy were most involved as pastors and teachers. Incidentally, Bishop Robert Heavener is a serving Grand Chaplain. Orange services, that is church services with Orangemen in regalia in attendance, came into being in 1796. Orangemen attended them on the invitation of the incumbents of parishes. They paraded to church as witnesses to their Christian faith. The form and ordering of the service is the responsibility of the incumbent and the preacher is someone of his choice. There is no antipathy to the Church of Ireland in Orangeism, on the contrary the reality is that the continuing influence of Church of Ireland members in the Institution is good, rational, sensitive and pertinent to the thinking of those who are committed to the Reformed Faith and the benefits it brings to individuals and societies. In a country constantly injured by the violence of tongue, pen and hand, the influence of the Orange Institution has been considerable and important in moderating and thinking of people who believe themselves to be continuously under attack. It has persuaded many to think positively and temperately. It is to be hoped that the General Synod,

with several Orangemen in attendance, recognised the value of a church and organisation relationship which has been beneficial to both. And not to be swayed by those who for their own reasons are not in sympathy with Orangeism and the Protestantism for which it stands.

REVISED RULES

After lengthy, intensive and comprehensive studies on the Constitution, Laws and Ordinances of the Loyal Orange Institution of Ireland, the Rules Revision Committee will present its report, and the revised document, to the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Lodge in June. The committee invited and received submissions for alterations, clarifications and changes in the last revision and publication of the "rule book" in 1967 from brethren and lodges. These were collated and examined to ensure that every effort was made to make this revision of 1998 a clear and accurate publication of the Constitution, Laws and Ordinances by which the Orange Institution is structured and administered. The need for such a book of rules and regulations is obvious. An organisation must have its terms of reference for the proper understanding and appreciation of its origins, objectives, principles and policies; and for a statement on its standards for personal behaviour, fraternal and community relations. All things obey fixed laws. In such a comprehensive work there has to be precise detail to ensure that brethren understand what are the essentials for the better management and control of the Institution. Familiarity with the Constitution, Laws and Ordinances is to be encouraged by constant and frequent reference to them, to know them, not just to make occasional use of them. They state what is required of Orangemen in every conceivable situation and circumstance. They demand obedience. There are penalties for disobedience. Laws are not laws without pressure behind them. And laws in their essence "are the very bulwarks of liberty. They define every man's rights and stand between and defend the individual liberties of all men." The Constitution, Laws and Ordinances, based on the primary principles of sincerity, honesty, loyalty, charity, humanity, justice and equity is intended to give shape and substance to the workings of our Orange brotherhood. The Orange Institution is not to be judged on its rules and regulations but on the quality of its members. Its Constitution, Laws and Ordinances are by Orangemen for Orangemen whose vows and promises are to be kept in the spirit of an Orangeism which is totally Christian in faith and practice. There is always the underlying principle - "Laws often allow what honour forbids". The indebtedness of the Institution to the Rules Revision Committee is best expressed in the brethren's wise use of this definitive reference book for Orangemen. The health of the Institution is dependent on the necessity to "play by the rules".

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Election of officers



Some of the officers and visitors at the election of officers for Star of Bethlehem RBP No. 682 held in Killen Orange Hall recently. Front row, left to right: Sir Knights H. Monteith, Reg.; R. Scott, Chap.; J. Burke, WM; R. McKelvey, DM; L. Forbes, Treas.; H. Speer, 1st Lecturer. Middle row, S. Burke, H. Baxter, T. Livingstone, W. Wilson, W. Morrow, B. Graham. Back row: K. Vaughan, J. Gilbraith, J. Porter, H. Ellis, R. Watson, G. Haslett.

THE election of officers took place in Killen Orange Hall recently.

A number of visiting Sir Knights were present from Donegal and Fermanagh, the results of the election are as follows:

WM, Sir Knt. Jack Burke; DM, Sir Knt. Robert McKelvey; Chaplain, Sir Knt. Robert Scott; Reg., Sir Knt. Harry Monteith; Treasurer, Sir Knt. Leslie Forbes; 1st Lecturer, Sir

Knt. Howard Speer; 2nd Lecturer, Sir Knt. Robert McKelvey; 1st Censor, Sir Knt. Ivan Clarke; 2nd Censor, Sir Knt. Kenneth Vaughan; Standard Bearers, Sir Knt. Neville Sproule, Sir Knt. Eden Rankin; Pursuivant, Sir

Knt. Joe Porter; Committee Foreman, Sir Knt. Roy Watson; 1st Sir Knt. John Bogle, Sir Knt. Andrew Caldwell, Sir Knt. Gary Sproul, Sir Knt. Kenneth Lyttle, Sir Knt. Mervyn Burke and Sir Knt. Joe Gilbraith.

After the election of officers the presiding officer, Wor. Sir Knt. Ellis wished the newly elected officers a happy year in office and went on to say that the days ahead were going to be difficult and that only strong leadership and prayerful deliberations would see a happy end to 1998, the newly elected WM Sir Knt. Jack Burke replied accordingly.

A most appetising supper was served up by the ladies committee.



Killen WM and DM enjoying a time of fellowship with some of the visitors at the election of officers. Left to right: Wor. Sir Knights Roland Stevenson, WM RBP No.400; George Haslett, Asst. Reg. RBP No.400; Jack Burke, WM; Robert McKelvey, DM and Harold Ellis, presiding officer.

For the link

THE case for retaining the Orange-Unionist link is made by a County Down Orangeman.

"The Ulster Unionist Party was born out of the Orange Institution, and from the very earliest days it has been nurtured and encouraged by Orangemen.

"Orangemen have played a leading role in its councils from the very start and have always been welcomed at every level in the party.

"Sir James Craig, the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland was an Orangeman and Unionist. He always said that he was an Orangeman first and Unionist second, but that did not prevent him from being party leader and guiding Northern Ireland through its difficult formative years.

"In more recent times the late Bro. Brian Faulkner, one of the most accomplished politicians in these islands, always maintained that the Orange Order gained immensely from being a

strong component in the Unionist Party.

"Bro. Faulkner argued that were the Order to walk away from its Unionist connection it would lose a great deal of its power and prestige. He claimed it would become a mere cultural organisation, celebrating a carnival on July 12, but not taken seriously by the political parties and especially the governments who run this country.

"Many including the writer would point to the fact that Prime Minister Tony Blair was anxious to hear the Orange viewpoint on the Good Friday Agreement. He recognised that Orangeism played a key role in the Unionist Party and that its views could not be ignored.

"Would Mr. Blair have been so willing to receive an Orange deputation to No.10 Downing Street if the Order did not have political strength? I think not.

"The argument that to break the Orange link

would strengthen Unionism's appeal to Roman Catholics and mean an influx of members of that faith into the party is a spurious and unrealistic one. Roman Catholics are not willing to come forward in large numbers to join the party because of pressure from their own community.

"Many of course do vote Unionist in elections and will continue to do so. Some, and they are highly respected, belong to the party and are to be admired.

"But it is rather insulting to the Orange Order to suggest that its link with the Ulster Unionist Party is a deterrent to Roman Catholics, or indeed any non-Orange people joining the party.

"The Orange-Unionist link has served the Ulster Unionist Party and the Order well for over 100 years and I believe it should be maintained. I believe the vast majority of Orangemen would agree with me."



Installation of officers

Ballygawley Total Abstinence RBP No.281, Aghnacloy District Royal Black Chapter No.3, Co. Tyrone, installation of officers for 1998. Front row, left to right: Sir Knights David Brush (WM), James Cochrane (DM), and David Davidson (DM). Back row, left to right: Sir Knights Robert Gilchrist (Lecturer, Omagh District), Harold Erskine (Registrar), R.N. Givan (DDM), and Mervyn Little, Treasurer.

Crossgar Sir Knight honoured

Crossgar Sir Knight James McCormick was honoured for 50 years service in the William Johnston Memorial No.180, Crossgar. Back row, left to right: Sir Knights Eric McClurg, Hugh McClure, David Eyron, Robert Greer, John McMillan, Will Pentland, David Cranston. Front row, left to right: Sir Knights James Brownlee PM (DDM), Alan Brownlee (WM), James McCormick PM, Maurice McCormick (DM), Trevor Jackson (Chaplain) and John McMurray, District Chaplain.



Orange Hall celebrates 50 years

FIFTY years ago Killycople Orange Lodge was completed, the work on changing Drumgaw Old School into the new Killycople Orange Hall.

The records of the lodge show that on May 1, 1946 a committee was formed to carry out all the necessary business connected with acquiring the old Drumgaw School so that it could be converted into a new Orange Hall for the lodge.

On July 1, 1946 Bro. David Ballentine gave an account to the lodge on the work carried out on acquiring the school. The premises were then valued at £100, and the committee proposed that the school should be bought. The members of the lodge agreed, and each member agreed to donate the sum of £1 each to the cost of the new hall.

By December 4, 1946 it was reported that the purchase had been completed and that work would now commence to change Drumgaw School into Killycople Orange Hall.

On April 2, 1947 the sum of £25 was paid to Bro. James Woods for work carried out on the new hall.

At the June meeting of the lodge the treasurer

handed over the sum of £29-9-4 (£24.46p), this being the outstanding account due to 'Hillocks' who had supplied the various building materials.

The new Killycople Orange Hall was officially opened on July 2, 1947.

Over the years the hall has been well maintained, with several extensions being carried out over the years with the result that both the lodge and Killycople Orange Hall are in excellent condition.

To celebrate the 50 years of Orangeism the lodge held an Orange Ball. The Worshipful Master, Bro. William Gray welcomed all to the celebration, and invited Bro. James Nicholson, MEP, to open the ball. The parade for the ball was performed by members of LOL No.345, assisted by their very good friends from LOL No.540. Wor. Bro. George Emerson performed the various songs connected to the presentation of the Orange Ball. Wor. Bro. Thomas Watson thanked all who had taken part in the parade for the Orange Ball.

After the formal parade, the members of the lodge, and their guests held a very successful dance and social evening.

Against the link

BOTH our contributors to the Orange-Unionist link have asked us not to publish their names and we acceded to that request.

The case for the ending the link between the Orange Order and the Ulster Unionist Party is made by a brother from County Armagh.

"I must stress that I have absolutely nothing against the Ulster Unionist Party and in general would support its positive stand for the Union.

"But I do feel that the Orange link is not one beneficial to either party, but especially to the Orange Order. I don't think it right that the Order should have delegates entitled to attend the Council or the annual conference of the Ulster Unionist Party.

"I know from my contacts with fellow brethren that quite a few are not in favour of the link. Several would be DUP members or supporters, another couple would favour Alliance, and in a normal political climate would support Labour, or certainly the Northern Ireland Labour Party.

"I would fall into that camp. I can recall as a boy an election in County Armagh in which a well-known Orangeman from Bessbrook, Tom Martin, stood as a Commonwealth Labour candidate. He opposed the sitting member, Dr. George Dougan, of Portadown, an Ulster Unionist.

"Dr. Dougan won the election comfortably and behaved with the dignity and fair play befitting the man. But quite a few Unionist supporters resorted to a smear campaign accusing Martin of being practically a traitor to the Unionist camp because he was "splitting the vote".

"Yet Martin's Orange credentials were immaculate and he was held in the highest regard in Bessbrook. The things said about him were most unfair and certainly not in the nature of fair play.

"Years later, when there was a strong NILP presence in central Armagh, the Orange Order had many outstanding members in Portadown, Richhill, Lurgan and other towns who were members of Labour Party branches.

"Men like Tom Newell, Wesley Cardwell and Earl Wright were as true to their Orange principles as any Unionist and yet when it came to elections for Portadown Borough Council it was implied that they were less loyal than the Ulster Unionist candidates - even though some of those candidates were not Orangemen!

"I appreciate that things are said at election time which are emotional and not with any great malice, but mud can stick and in the 1950s and 60s it was not easy for Northern Ireland Labour men, even though they were Orangemen, to oppose Unionists.

"The Orange Order is a broad church and should be able to accommodate many political points of view. In the light of what happened in the past, and also in recent years, I believe it would benefit both the Order and the Unionist Party if the formal link was broken.

"It would not damage the Unionist Party to any great extent as most Orangemen will probably continue to vote for the party, but it

would enable Bro. David Trimble and others to appeal to Roman Catholics to join their party without having any Orange connection.

"I certainly believe the Orange Order would benefit from such a break. Many potential candidates have been put off joining the Orange because they felt that they did not want to be connected to a political party, however tenuous that link might be.

"There are men who are deeply religious and abhor party politics and I am convinced that these men could be recruited to the Order if they were satisfied it was entirely a religious and cultural organisation, devoid of any political links.

"Of course if the link is broken the Unionist Party would have to look for alternative premises to hold many of its meetings as Orange Halls would be out - but that is surely a challenge a political party should be confident enough to meet.

"It is time to end the political link with the Unionist Party and I would encourage those who are campaigning for same."



Brethren of LOL No.345 and LOL No.540 perform the opening ceremony of the Orange Ball.

200 years of service

ARMAGH True Blues LOL No.109 presented 50-year certificates to four members of the lodge in recognition of long service.

At the March meeting of the lodge Bro. George Proctor, the Worshipful District Master of Armagh District No. 5 presented certificates to Bros. William McLaughlin, William Kerr and George Lutton, all of whom have served in various offices of the lodge, including that of Worshipful Master.

Wor. Bro. Sinclair Scott then surprised Bro. Proctor by presenting him with his 50-year certificate. Not only has Bro. Proctor served in many offices in the lodge, but he has given many years service to the Armagh District, serving as the present District Master.

Throughout Bro. Proctor's Orange career he has been a dedicated supporter of the Junior Orange Lodge. For many years Bro. Proctor served as the Supervisor of Armagh Junior LOL No.27.

Left to right: Wor. Bros. William McLaughlin, William Kerr, George Proctor, JP, WDM Armagh District No.5 and George Lutton.



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The defence of the union is our business . . . and yours

THE business and professional people for the union is a dedicated group of prominent pro-Union business, professional, theological and academic people committed to the positive, development, promotion and maintenance of the union between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

We believe that the future of Northern Ireland as an integral part of the United Kingdom has never been in greater danger. We further believe that the current talks process has been devised by those opposed to the union as a means of obtaining Unionist acquiescence to the proposals set out in the framework document. At time of writing, it would appear that one section of unionism is intent on providing this acquiescence with potentially catastrophic consequences.

We would ask the people of Ulster if they are prepared to:

- Accept the abandonment of the United Kingdom's independent sovereignty over Northern Ireland in exchange for a possible dilution of the Republic's unlawful claim?

- Accept a Northern Ireland assembly requiring democrats to share power with those representing fully armed active terror?

- Accept an active North-South body with executive powers in exchange for a neutered Assembly and a token British-Irish Council?

- Accept a process dedicated to the creation of a functional and then a factual united Ireland?

If not, we would ask you to help us in playing your part in opposing this programme of Irish unification by installments.

If you are a member of the business, professional, theological or academic communities, join us as we pledge to support the union.

We will do this by vigorously putting forward

the view that it is in the best interests of all of the people in Northern Ireland that the union is maintained and strengthened. Any attempt to link our economy with that of the Republic of Ireland would have disastrous implications for the people of Northern Ireland.

For example, do you know that we enjoy a standard of living some 20% higher than in the Republic? Do you know that workers are taxed at 40% at the £12,000 threshold? Do you know that when the Republic of Ireland joins EMU there could be devastating economic consequences? On this basis alone, why would any sensible person wish to link with the Republic's economy? This is why any North-South body concentrating on economic matters would be lethal for our country.

I am sure many readers will have despaired at some of the nonsense that has come from self-proclaimed spokesmen for the business community. In fact, a number of these self-styled business groups have been prominent in the castigation of the Orange Order and in making outrageous and false claims regarding the economic costs of parades. Our group absolutely supports the rights of the Orange Order, and believes that the exercise of civil and religious liberty is at the heart of any democracy. When this is challenged, as is happening at the moment, all democrats must join with and support their Orange brethren.

We would like the Orange Order to know that the business community fully endorses their principled stance. We wish to work with other pro-union groups in the defence of the union.

If any readers would like to know more about our group, and receive a free brochure, please contact: The Membership Secretary, BPPU Box 324, Belfast.



50 years service

Bro. Robert Cairns, WM of Drumlough True Blues LOL No.423 (left), congratulates Bro. William Williamson (right) on having achieved 50 years in the Orange Order, looking on is Bro. the Rev. John Scott Martin, District Chaplain.

GOVAN'S most cosmopolitan Black preceptory Andersons Ancient Knights RBP No.138 started their centenary celebrations in Aberdeen on Saturday, April 18, exactly 100 years after the warrant was granted.

It was fitting that the celebrations should be in Aberdeen as a number of brethren from Aberdeen Bon Accord LOL No.701 are members of the preceptory. Indeed, the annual visit to Aberdeen has been established for a number of years.

The main focus of the day was on the ceremonial work. Under the guidance of Sir Knight Thomas Blair, Provincial Grand Lecturer, Sir Knights from Ark of Discovery (Dundee) RBP No.150 received the first

Ancient Knights centenary celebration

and last degrees. The lecture teams being Sir Knights A. Blair, T. Blair, A. Goody, with K. Blair officiating as Chaplain.

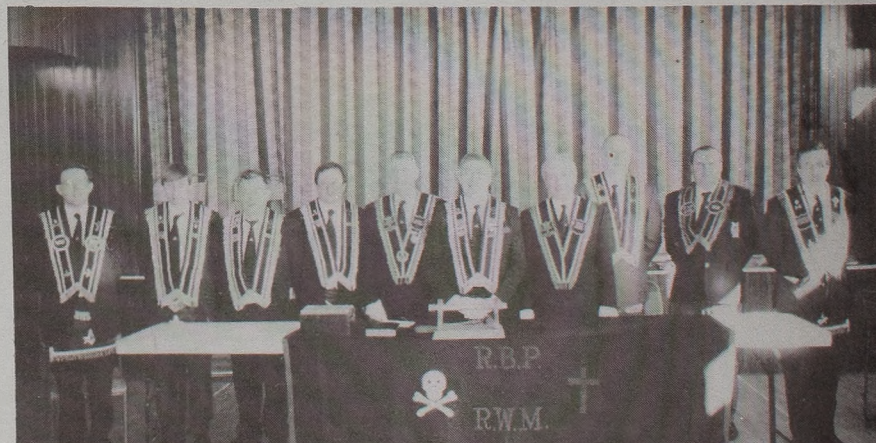
The guest speaker was Sir Knight R. McLoughlin, chaplain Royal Black Chapter No.7, on the history and progress of the preceptory.

Sir Knt. A. Goody, Provincial Deputy Grand Master, presented a Bible

on behalf of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland to mark the centenary.

The celebrations continue on Friday, June 19 when the preceptory will march through the encampment and hold a celebration dance in the Blue Star Club, further details can be obtained from the registrar, Sir Knt. Paul Langley.

Officers and distinguished guests of RBP No.138, left to right: Sir Knights A. Blair, WM RBP No.673; D. Semple, DM; A. Savage, treasurer; P. Langley, registrar; T. Blair, Grand Lecturer; H. Morrow, WM; A. Goody, Deputy Grand Master; I. Findlay, chaplain; K. Potts, WM, RBP No.150 and R. McLoughlin, chaplain, Royal Black Chapter No.7.



BANGOR Abbey LOL No.726 celebrates its golden jubilee anniversary this year.

Warrant No.736 was issued in the name of William George Clarke on December 10, 1947 with the first meeting of the lodge being held in January, 1948.

The Abbey lodge was formed by members of Bangor District who

Bangor Abbey celebrate 50th anniversary

belonged to Bangor Abbey Church. The lodge has the unique distinction of sitting in Bangor Abbey Parochial Hall.

Pictured on the occasion

of the golden jubilee installation dinner, the newly installed officers and members of the lodge along with their guests including the officer of Bangor District LOL No.18 and the Rev. Nesbitt, rector of Bangor Abbey.

The brethren of Bangor Abbey have planned a number of events during the year to celebrate their anniversary.

Words of wisdom from Lord Tebbit

WHAT an eminently sensible man Lord Tebbit is, and how his presence is missed in the Mother of Parliaments.

Norman Tebbit has been consistent in his opposition to the so-called agreement entered into at Stormont recently and he has been a real friend of the Ulster Unionist people.

In his column in the 'Mail on Sunday' of April 12, Lord Tebbit includes photographs of his friends Airey Neave, Ian Gow and the Rev. Robert Bradford.

Neave, it will be remembered, was a hero of

Colditz, the 'impregnable' German prison camp from which he escaped. He was the adviser to Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and was a strong supporter of Ulster Unionism.

Airey Neave was murdered within the precincts of Westminster by a bomb placed under his car by republican murderers. A few weeks previously they murdered a young Ulster Defence Regiment soldier called McNally in Portadown in a 'trial run' by placing a bomb under his car.

Ian Gow was likewise murdered by the enemies of Ulster and the Crown, and Irish nationalists gloated over his death.

The Rev. Robert Bradford was a minister of religion who represented his South Belfast constituents with great distinction, including the large Chinese minority who paid tribute to his work. He was cut down mercilessly in a hail of bullets by IRA gunmen while sitting at a constituency surgery in Finaghy - a caretaker suffered the same fate.

In his column Lord Tebbit

declared, "This Agreement has been made under the shadow of the gunmen. It is born not of principle and reason but out of the war of weariness of the Major and Blair governments and the undying determination of IRA-Sinn Fein."

"Had our own politicians shown the courage, determination and political skill of the IRA, democracy might have won, but they do not and violence succeeded. It sticks in my throat to say it, but a few hundred determined terrorists have brought a government which spends more

than £22 billion a year on defence to the conference table pleading for peace. What a contrast with the Falklands!

"The IRA has not won a final victory but this is now in sight. Morale is high. The command structure is intact, it has all its weapons and money to buy more. Soon all its gunmen and bombers will be free."

"The IRA knows that our government yields even more easily to the threat of force than to force itself. It has uttered not only word of regret, contrition or repentance.

"It is hard to believe that, under its own name or some other, the IRA will not exploit our weakness again and again until its final victory."

"In contrast, the law-abiding loyalist community has got from this conference no more than a half promise of the peace to which it has always been entitled."

"What joy can there be to see gun law triumph? My fear is that others may now learn the lesson we have been taught by the IRA, and determined evil men will triumph over weak good men."

Foolish ideas on Ulster

ISES are again being made about the need for 'Truth and Reconciliation' committees to be set up in Northern Ireland ostensibly with the need to examine all atrocities and injustices perpetrated during the past 30 years. Given the track record for an Fein-IRA in manipulating the media, both national and international, and propaganda machine which played such a big part in the success of that fascist organisation, it would be foolish in the extreme for the British Government to set up such a committee. A South African source favourably disposed towards the Ulster Unionist and loyalist position has warned against the United Kingdom going down that road. "We have a so-called Truth and Reconciliation Committee in South Africa but don't be fooled into being misled by Bishop Tutu or Nelson Mandela into thinking that this is a panacea for all the evils that have afflicted Northern Ireland. "If our experience in South Africa so far is anything to go by, then such a

Committee will only be interested in the injustices and atrocities allegedly carried out by government forces and right wing organisations. "Already the committee is conducting a witch-hunt against supporters of the former Afrikaaner government and Prime Minister Pik Botha. there is no such move against the murderers of the ANC who carried out hideous murders like the placing of tyres around people and setting them alight," said the South African. There has to be a real fear that Sinn Fein-IRA would be organised to influence the workings and findings of a 'Truth and Reconciliation Committee' in Northern Ireland. No doubt there would be a vociferous campaign for investigations into the events of Bloody Sunday, or killings by policemen and soldiers, or murders by loyalist para-military groups. There would undoubtedly be silence about things like Kingsmills, Tullyvallen Orange Hall, Bloody Friday, the murder of Sir Norman Strong and his son James, the atrocious murder of the Rev. Robert Bradford and a

caretaker at the premises where he was shot, or things like the murder of a young soldier by a group of blood-thirsty IRA women in a warehouse in the Falls, or of the killing of a good samaritan council worker who went into the Falls to repair windows and was murdered for no other reason than the facts he was a Protestant. Protestants and loyalists are notoriously reluctant to come forward and pursue investigations. Those poor innocent people who were slaughtered on the streets of Belfast on Bloody Friday 1972 don't have people writing books or agitating for action to have the perpetrators brought to justice. There are no calls by journalists and writers to have the known commander of the IRA in Belfast who authorised the butchery on Bloody Friday, or the awful atrocity of La Mon House to be brought to the bar of justice - or even named. No, given the likelihood of such a committee or commission being just another means of using as a whip to beat the Protestant population and the British it is better to drop the idea altogether.



Irene Jeffers, wife of Bro. Eric Jeffers, Upper Broomhedge LOL No.799 whose success in the British Transplant Games has earned her a place representing the Province and Great Britain in the World Transplant Games this September.

Anti-Protestant Europe?

THERE are no Protestants in the UK according to a schools publication from the European Union! What exactly is Europe? is a 30-page glossy guide to the EU designed for classroom use. However, it fails to find any Protestants in Britain, including Northern Ireland. Religious affiliation in Britain, we are told, comprises 55% Anglican, 9% Roman Catholic, 2% Muslim and 34% other. Nothing appears under the column for Protestants in the UK. Only Germany and the Netherlands have any sizeable Protestant community according to the book. In the 15 EU countries listed, Protestants (where they are shown at all), Lutherans and Anglicans are recorded separately. Consequently Roman Catholics appear as the largest single denomination in most countries. Children are asked to 'Look out in the table below which religion is the most common in each EU country and then across the EU generally.' The Roman Catholic Church appears dominant in almost all cases.

Annual service



Officers and flag party at RAPC parade to Maralin Parish Church.

MEMBERS of Co. Down Royal Arch Purple Chapter held their annual service on Sunday, April 5 in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Maralin.

Between 500 and 600 members marched in sunshine through the village from the Orange Hall, accompanied by three bands - Aughnaskeagh Silver, Maevemacullen Accordion and Kilmore Flute to the church, where a wreath was laid at the War Memorial in remembrance of fallen comrades, before joining in the praise led by local minister, Rev. Dr. Chris Easton.

Special preacher was Wor. Bro. the Rev. Edwin Colvin, Co. Down Chaplain, while the special soloist was Sister Meta Crozier. Also present was Most Worshipful Grand Master of the RAPC, Bro. Kenneth Watson, while the hosts, Lower Iveagh West, RAPC No.8 were well represented.



Orange brethren turn out in force for opening of new hall

MORE than 1,000 loyalists braved torrential rain to witness the official opening of the new Orange Hall in Banbridge.

The event at Victoria Street was attended by a number of top Orange brethren including Bro. George Patton, Executive Officer of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, who conducted the opening ceremony.

Before the ceremony brethren from across Northern Ireland, as well as Orange representatives from Cavan and Dublin, and ten bands, paraded from Victoria Street to the Dromore Road and back to the new hall via the town centre.

Proceedings at the opening ceremony were chaired by Bro. Joe Baird, WDM of Banbridge and prayers and a scripture reading were given by Bro. the Rev. Norman Hutton.

Musical accompaniment to the hymn singing was provided by Seapatrik Flute Band.

Greetings from the County Down Grand Orange Lodge were delivered by Bro. E. Keown, Grand Master of CDGOL, and a number of presentations were made to various dignitaries by Bro. P. McCandless, secretary of the hall committee.

Assembled brethren also heard the main speaker, Bro. the Rev. William

Bingham, Grand Chaplain of County Armagh, outline his strident opposition to the Good Friday political agreement.

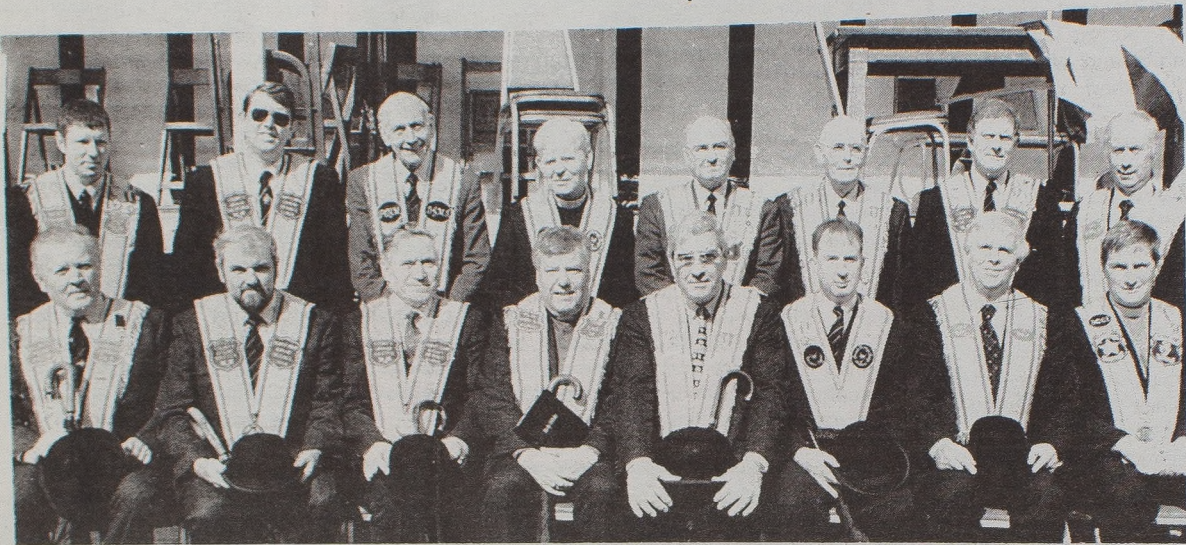
The new hall has been constructed on the site of the former building which was demolished in late 1996 after serving the needs of Orangeism in the Banbridge district since 1882.

The original hall played a pivotal role in community life, in later years hosting a popular Saturday night dance. However, in the more recent past it fell into a state of widespread disrepair and suffered substantial structural damage in 1991 during an IRA bomb attack on the nearby court-

house. The hall is currently home to five local lodges, LOL Nos. 20, 28, 123, 217 and 423 and is a meeting place for the Banbridge branch of the Apprentice Boys of Derry as well as the Royal Black Institution.

District Secretary Bro. Derick Bell said he was delighted that so many Orange brethren and spectators had defied the driving rain to witness the historic ceremony.

Bro. Bell also pointed out that the new hall which has a fully equipped modern kitchen as well as a main function hall and a number of smaller rooms could be used during the day and on free evenings for the benefit of the community.



The platform party at the opening of Banbridge Orange hall on Saturday, April 25.

A hall fit for the next century

ORANGE ORDER Chief Executive Officer Bro. George Patton has heralded the new hall as a building fit for the Millennium.

Speaking at the official opening of the £130,000 hall in Victoria Street he said it showed the confidence local Orangemen had in the future of the organisation.

He also congratulated Banbridge district's foresight in demolishing the old hall and investing in a new building which he said would "meet the needs of the community well into the next century".

"The new hall is top notch", Bro. Patton said afterwards "and the end product is a tremendous

credit to the district".

During the ceremony Bro. Patton also endorsed the anti agreement stance of fellow platform speaker Bro. the Rev. William Bingham and hit out at what he termed the "demonisation" of the Orange Order.

"I would urge people to read the agreement care-

fully," he said "but personally I could not accept it".

The Scarva Orangeman also criticised the troubled Parades Commission during his brief address and branded PM Tony Blair's role in the decision to postpone its preliminary findings into contentious marches as "reprehensible".



29th anniversary of the King's-Moss Arch

The Thompson family's Orange arch at Kings-Moss (Newtownabbey) will be (DV) opened on July 3 (Friday) for the 29th time!

Clarification sought by Grand Lodge

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland on April 15 announced that they required clarification on a number of points regarding "the Agreement" and could not at that stage recommend it to the people of Ulster.

Having sought such clarification including a further request for a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Grand Lodge officers regret that the request for a meeting has not yet been acceded to. (It must be remembered that a meeting with the Prime Minister was first sought last October).

It has to be said however that clarification has been forthcoming from a variety of other sources including statements by ministers in Parliament and the meeting between the Prime Minister and members of Sinn Fein recently.

With the half yearly meeting of the County Grand Lodges commencing the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has no other option but to advise the County Grand Lodges that the many areas of diffi-

culty in the Agreement have not been satisfactorily resolved.

Therefore the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland cannot recommend the Agreement to the County Grand Lodges and their members.

The opinion of Grand Lodge is that the Agreement provides for such things as:

- Dublin interference in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland.
- The prospect of an undemocratically accountable Assembly.
- The prospect of unpunished terrorist acts in the executive of the proposed Assembly.
- The Maryfield Secretariat and the Anglo Irish Agreement in another guise.

The decommissioning of illegal terrorist weaponry not adequately dealt with despite public assurance and we have the telling comments of Mitchie McLoughlin of Sinn Fein who said that their might be partial decommissioning in two years if there was British withdrawal.

100 years of dedicated service

A FAMOUS Protestant company of the Girls' Brigade has had its colours laid up, bringing to an end 100 years of dedicated service in the part of North Dublin city, where it was based.

Abbey Street Presbyterian - 1st Company of the GB - was formerly Rutland Street Company and had been in existence since 1898. During that time generations of girls passed through its ranks, and a number of former GB officers are now running companies in other parts of the Republic and also in Northern Ireland where there are 20,000 members of the organisation.

It is interesting to reflect that the headquarters of the Orange Order were situated a short distance from Abbey Street Church. The

magnificent Fowler Hall O'Conville (then Sackville Street).

The Fowler Hall was occupied by IRA Irregulars in 1922 and many valuable books were seized by the IRA men and used as breast-works.

Later, when Robert O'Connor and his IRA men had withdrawn from the building a wagon drew away at the Fowler Memorial Hall and all the books and documents of the Grand Lodge which had survived the siege, many of them bearing bullet marks were removed to Belfast where they were safely stored.

The headquarters of the Institution were subsequently moved to Belfast after a year's temporary stay in Portadown, but for many Orangemen, especially those in the South, the Fowler Hall remained high in their affections.

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An open letter to Rt. Hon. Anthony Blair – Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Birmingham Bible Institute
5 Pakenham Road,
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2NN
April 24, 1998.

Mr. Prime Minister,

Please permit me, to convey to you my strongest misgivings regarding the 'Peace' agreement which was forged on Good Friday between the British government, Eire government, UDP/UDA, PUP/UVF, SDLP, Alliance, Sinn Fein, N.I. Labour, Women's Coalition and some of the Ulster Unionist Party.

This accord gives a carte blanche veto / minority blocking power to Ulster's nationalist population. How would you feel if your party which represents the majority of voters' preferences at last general elections couldn't take parliamentary decisions without the consent of the Conservative Party just because they represent a significant, yet (nevertheless minority) section of the British populace? If its such a good idea for Ulster then why don't you implement it in your own parliament? If the people of NI Don't vote in an assembly which has a majority of pro-nationalist deputies, then why should they be forced to share power with them? This doesn't happen in any other civilised country, then why should the peaceful, loyal, majority population of Ulster be insulted with this supposedly wonderful offer. No wonder the SDLP and Sinn Fein think that this is acceptable (in the meantime at least) because it entrenches, institutionalises and legalises their formerly de facto veto over the Province's administration. Oh yes (I almost forgot), Alliance loves it because this is the only way in

which they can exercise any influence at all – let's face it, they couldn't do so in an assembly where decisions are taken by a majority vote because no one votes for them. The eternally agitated 'Lord' Alderdice may hate to accept that, but who said that the truth was pleasant. The only way in which he could get into parliament, after decades of repeatedly failing, was by appointment – and even then it was merely as a reward for being the government's little lap dog.

The 'agreement' gives minority groups the absolute right to have representation at executive level in this newly proposed NI assembly. How would you feel if you, as Prime Minister, had to invite senior Conservatives and perhaps Paddy Ashdown into your cabinet despite the fact that you won a clear majority of votes at the general election? Again, if its such a good idea for Ulster then why don't you implement this measure in your own parliament? After all, the combined Conservative and Liberal Democrat per cent of the vote at the general election comes close to that which Ulster's nationalists could hope to poll. Not only that, but how would you feel about having terrorists in your cabinet who have blatantly refused to even apologise for atrocities such as Manchester, Warrington, the Birmingham pub bombings, London Docklands etc.

Thirdly, the Dublin government will be able to intervene directly and legally in Ulster's affairs to de facto the same extent that the EEC powerfully interferes in the internal affairs of the UK. When one thinks of your post 1984 federalist

sympathies, I doubt that you would be particularly horrified by such a prospect. However, as someone who sincerely cherishes my country's sovereignty, I believe that whilst we should be on friendly terms with neighbouring countries, they have no right to intervene in our national affairs because we live outside of their national jurisdiction. You, as our Prime Minister, have been entrusted by the people of the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' as custodian of our national sovereignty – regardless of your own personal viewpoints, your constitutional duty is to honour that trust by defending our sovereign status against your friends (and our nation's enemies) in Dublin and Brussels.

Lastly, the terrorist thugs who have mercilessly gutted and massacred both communities in Ulster (and indeed everyone else in the UK) for the last 30 years are all being let out of jail. Basically, no one wants to say it but they're getting off scot free! Subsequently, the decommissioning issue has once more been fudged and de facto buried – thus ensuring that the terrorists will never give up their weapons. Could I ask how Bill Clinton and the American people, who so passionately supports this worthless 'peace deal', how they would feel if the Oklahoma bombers (who claim to be politically motivated) were all let off and freed in order to appease the activists of the American far right? It is ludicrous! I'll tell you what we would be having if this sham of a peace process were an authentic solution to Ulster's blood-stained history of suffering – their would be trials conducted where scum like Adams and Maginness would be charged with war crimes and sentenced accordingly. They should be treated like Hitler's Nazi thugs were at the Nuremburg trials - because let's face it, there isn't any difference between them and the IRA.



I am completely disgusted that you can even dare to recommend such an insult to the people of Northern Ireland and then expect them to be stupid enough to okay it. The only people who seem to lose out under this agreement are those who have unflinchingly lived their lives throughout three horrible decades as decent, law-abiding, life-respecting, loyal, peaceful, principled, model citizens. Then again, what's new?

The bottom line is that the terrorists; aided by their seditious cohorts in the SDLP, Dublin and the Roman Catholic Church, the fifth columnists of the Alliance Party and weak 'fluster and bluster' traitors like Ken Maginness MP of ancient O'Neilite hue within the UUP who forced it to back down every single time that it took a right stand; wouldn't be getting one of the concessions found in this deal were it not for the irreparable physical, spiritual, moral, emotional and psychological damage which they have inflicted on our nation.

Yours sincerely,
Nigel Owens, BA (Hons),
DipTh, Dip Min.

I want to now sincerely appeal to the precious people of Ulster themselves. The majority population must demand that which has been denied them for far too long, namely their inalienable rights of: a protected British nationality, a sovereign British homeland unfettered by any intrusive

foreign influence, absolute internal military security, majority rule and the protection of their cultural identity. Let the whingers and the do-gooders rage all they want, issuing their ritual cries of "bigotry" – that's all they can do because they have no real factual answers at all, the facts remain unchanged – we are the majority population, we have nothing to be ashamed of, we are not responsible for the near destruction of Northern Ireland, we are not responsible for murdering and bombing which has gone on, we will not be browbeaten by self-appointed smooth-talking 'experts' who boast about their non-existent 'open-mindedness' into apologising for both our perfectly reasonable views and our very existence – we demand only that which we would be entitled to in any other western democracy by virtue of the simple fact that we are the majority in a province whose borders are recognised by international law in the Treaty of Helsinki (which the Republic of Ireland actually signed). This is what we should be aiming for instead of pathetically grovelling around on the floor for the worthless cosmetic scraps which have reluctantly dropped from the poison-ridden dinner tables of Unity Flats, the Falls Road, Dunloy, London, Washington, Rome and Dublin. We are worth more than that! Stop believing the lie that this is all that you can realistically expect. Unionist people I beg of you, please recapture your vision, regain your self-respect, start believing in

yourself again, and more importantly, start believing in God again because He delights in doing the miraculous with the impossible. He can do the same in Ulster today! Trust in Him as your personal Saviour because of what He accomplished on the cross for you for your own soul's salvation, start clinging to Him by relying on our heavenly Father for all of our necessities, whether national or personal, because he has promised us:

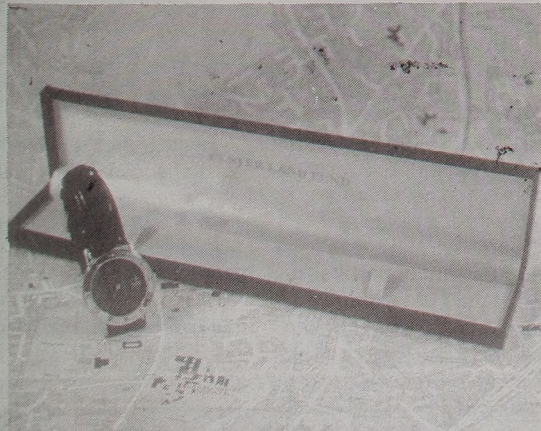
"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." – 2nd Chronicles 7:14.

I appeal to those unionists who are standing against this satanic plot to destroy both our country and indeed the cause of Protestantism throughout the UK and Western Europe, to proclaim a day of fasting and prayer across the churches and mission halls of our land. That was where the battle was won in 1912 when Belfast's great Ulster Hall was used for such gatherings, and throughout two world wars – the people repented, turned to god and He delivered them.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Owens, BA (Hons),
DipTh, Dip Min.
1st John 1:7-9 /
Acts 16: 30-31.

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Fifty-year service certificate



BALLYKELLY LOL No.699, Limavady District, Londonderry has celebrated the presentation of a 50-year service certificate and jewel to Bro. William Deehan.

Bro. Deehan was honoured for his services to the Orange Institution and to Ballykelly Lodge No.699. He joined the Order on May 6, 1947, with Ballynarrig LOL No.650, and later moved onto Ballykelly LOL No.699.

Front row, left to right: Bro. Joe Neely, WM LOL No.699 and Bro. William Deehan. Back row, left to right: Bros. Mervyn Tonny, Sec.; Paul Clyde, Chap.; Brian Hassan, DM and Maurice Devenney, Treas.

Bro. Deehan received his certificate in the very hall in which he was initiated in, albeit with a different lodge.

Bro. Deehan is still a very hard-working and loyal attending member of Ballykelly lodge and is currently a very active committee member. He also side-drummed for Ballykelly

Flute Band for a great many years.

Bro. Joe Neely, WM, presented Bro. Deehan with his certificate and jewel.

The officers and members of Ballykelly LOL No.699 wish Bro. Deehan many more years of service to our lodge and committee.

'Quality rather than quantity'

THERE has been enormous media concentration on the Orange and Black Institutions in the past decade, and it is rare for the Institutions to be out of the headlines in the local and national press.

That is encouraging in one respect as it proves the Orange Institution and its sister organisation is of the utmost importance in the Ulster situation and its prestige is undiluted.

This has been mirrored by a huge influx of new recruits - a trend that shows no sign of diminishing - and indeed it has been one of the most successful periods in the history of Orangeism since the Second World War.

The Ulster Protestant people trust the Orange Order and look to it for true leadership and for setting an example in loyalty to the Biblical essentials of the

Protestant faith, as well as positive loyalty to the Crown.

But it cannot be stressed too strongly that lodges and preceptories must strive to the utmost to ensure that recruits meet the high criteria of our Orders. There must be no lessening of the essential requirements, especially with regard to church attendance and good character.

All recruits must be regular attenders at their place of worship, and they must be law-abiding and fully behind the need to obey the lawful authorities of this land.

The Order can afford to be rigid on these essentials - it cannot afford to weaken in its resolve. Anyone who falls below these requirements, especially in true commitment to their church, must be rejected for membership.

People who do not belong to the Orange and

Black Institutions observe them with a critical eye when on parade and also the behaviour and the department of brethren and Sir Knights.

The Orange and Black would gain nothing by relaxing its rules, principles and code of conduct by admitting people who do not match these requirements. There is a great onus on brethren and Sir Knights, and especially on censors, to ensure that only Protestants who fulfil all the requirements of membership are admitted to the Orders - that cannot be stressed too strongly, especially at a time when there are so many so-called 'political Protestants' whose Christian and church commitments are tenuous to say the least.

It has to be a case of 'quality rather than quantity' and if the Order does not compromise on these requirements it will prosper by attracting the right kind of candidates.

County Down Grand Orange Lodge

COUNTY Down Grand Lodge has condemned outright the attacks on the property of Protestants living in the South Down area, and in particular Castlewella and surrounding towns.

"Since the so-called peace process began there has been attacks on churches, businesses, and Orange halls in the area. These include the burning of Castlewella Presbyterian Church Hall, a Protestant-owned Castlewella funeral/upholstery business, vandalism to Castlewella Orange Hall, and attacks on Castlewella Primary School used by the Protestant community.

"The surrounding towns of Dundrum and Newcastle have seen sectarian attacks on Orange halls, a church rectory and a church store.

The latest attacks being on Aughlisnafin Orange hall outside Castlewella which was attacked twice in the space of a week. Protestants in the area only want to exercise their faith and culture in peace without this kind of intimidation, it is time for law-abiding Roman Catholics to speak out for their Protestant neighbours against those carrying out these attacks".

Black progress in Australia

THE Provincial Grand Master, Sir Knight Gareth Yarr and his officers of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Victoria in Australia.

The Grand Master wishes to convey his best wishes to all the Sir Knights. He also hopes that peace will return to our native Ulster and that the marching season will be a glorious and colourful spectacle and also the God given right as British citizens to walk the Queen's highway without offence to anyone who believes in British democracy.

Front row, left to right: Sir Knights Samuel Millar, Albert Copeland, Grand Lecturer; Gareth Yarr, Grand Master; Rev. Joseph Bell, John Waring, PGM. Back row, left to right: Sir Knights: Robert O'Brien, Sword Bearer; Edmund Simpson, DGM; Jack Singleton, Sword Bearer; George Murray, Grand Treasurer; Thomas Bryans, Asst. Grand Chaplain and Alan McCullough, Grand Standard Bearer.



The officers and boys of Clounagh Junior LOL No. 46, Portadown with their trophies won in the Co. Armagh Junior Orange soccer competitions.

Table quiz

SIXMILECROSS District No.7 sports and cultural committee held their annual table quiz recently.

This year the hosts were Beragh LOL and the event was held in their Kirkpatrick Memorial Hall. The organisers were delighted with the turnout of twelve teams and their supporters filling the hall to capacity.

After a warm welcome from Bro. Johnston Mulligan on behalf of the committee and his host lodge, battle commenced with the question master, Mr. Maurice Clements from Cookstown ready to test the locals knowledge on topics ranging from the Bible to present-day TV programmes.

Right from the start the lead changed on practically every round with no more than a few points separating the teams after 10 rounds. The winners were Tyrooney 'B' taking the Herbert McLean Memorial Shield home for the first time. Second were Donaghianie. Third Cloughfin 'A' and fourth Sixmiles Cross. After the top 2 teams received their prizes supper was served and warm thank you to Bro. Clements and his wife who acted as score keeper for an enjoyable and close fought contest. Next on the sports calendar the five-a-side football at Cloughfin on May 8 and its a Knockout at Seskinore on June 6.

Tebbitt's support

ORD Tebbit has long been a firm supporter of Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom. His firm and welcome support for Ulster Unionism goes back to the days when as Norman Tebbit, MP for the Chingford constituency of North-East London he was unyielding in his advocacy of fair play for the Province.

His weekly column in the Mail on Sunday has featured some very relevant points in recent months. Take the issue of March 1, for example.

In a story headed 'The killing of innocents can never be political', Lord Tebbit wrote, "Writing in a newspaper last week the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic Bertie Ahern called upon British public opinion to 'make it clear that it rejects and does not recognise the type of loyalty that consists of killing innocent Catholics'."

Lord Tebbit commented, "What sort of bigoted ass is this man? Does he think that British public opinion has any doubt about its abhorrence of any killing of innocent people?"

"It is not this Government, nor John Major's, nor Margaret Thatcher's nor any other in my lifetime at least that has condoned the murder of innocent Roman Catholics,

Protestants, or for that matter atheists, Buddhists, or Moslems by calling such murders 'political' crimes.

"It is Mr. Ahern's government which claims sovereignty over Northern Ireland and it was that claim which the courts in his country interpreted to mean that IRA murders are 'political' crimes so the killers should not be extradited to face trial here.

"Even now Mr. Ahern's friends talk about the men who killed my friends Airey Neave, Ian Gow, Anthony Berry, and Robert Bradford, and almost killed my wife, as 'political' prisoners. It is not enough for Mr. Ahern to say that he accepts that the most important reassurance that Unionists need is that they will not be cut off from the British links that they cherish."

"I have no doubt that Irish nationalists should have Irish links, nor would I want to stop them arguing for a united Ireland. It is the killing and bombing that I want to stop.

"What Mr. Ahern must understand is that he must stop talking about a united Ireland as an objective. He should try to understand that it is an objective which might or might not be reached by peaceful agreement and consent but will never be reached by violence."

Ballyclare parade a casualty of bad weather

IT was disappointing for members of the Junior Orange and the many people who love to watch their parades that the Easter rally at Ballyclare was a casualty of the very severe weather conditions this spring.

Hopefully some alternative date can be arranged for the Juniors from the city districts to hold their colourful demonstration.

The Junior branch of the Orange is one of the great success stories of the Institution with new lodges springing up in various parts of the Province in recent years.

Young members have been flocking to join the Order and there are plans for more new lodges. Any adult brethren prepared to give time and talents to

promoting the work of the Junior Orange will find this is very rewarding. It is time consuming and requires a lot of dedication but the end result is to see boys brought up in the principles of true Protestantism, and many of them going on to join the senior Order.

In Co. Armagh the Clounagh youngsters have proved tops once again, sweeping the decks in the County Junior Orange soccer tournaments for the third year in success.

Clounagh Junior LOL No.46 were winners in the under-12 and over-12 competitions and judging by the prowess they displayed it shouldn't be too long before Irish League clubs are knocking on the doors of some of these lads!



Officers and sisters of the new Women's Orange Lodge formed at Aughlish pictured at the inaugural meeting held in Scarva Orange Hall, along with their guests.

Women's Orange flourishing

THE Women's Orange movement is flourishing as never before with new lodges being formed and existing ones experiencing an influx of new members.

Like the Junior Orange, the Women's Order is one of the most buoyant branches of the Orange family and the role of women in the Orange Institution has never been more appreciated.

This has been evidenced by the increasing number of Orange parades which now include women's lodges in their ranks - the Belfast 12th parade and the Portadown mini-Twelfth are two recent examples - and gone are the days when it was the perception of some people that the role of women in the Orange Order was to make the tea and sandwiches for the

menfolk on the 'Twelfth'.

The most recent example of progress on the part of the Women's Orange Order has been the formation of a new lodge at Aughlish, near Scarva and its inauguration means the completion of the Orange 'family' in this historic hamlet situated on the main road between Tandragee and Poyntzpass.

The new lodge is Aughlish Women's LOL No.148, and it will join with three other lodges using Aughlish Orange Hall - Aughlish LOL No.74, Junior LOL No.244 and Royal Black Preceptory No.44.

Over 160 sisters and brethren attended the launch of the new Women's LOL No.148 held in Scarva Orange Hall and they included leading officers in the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and the women's Orange Association.

Women's Orange officers and visitors from counties Armagh, Down and Monaghan were among the gathering.

Among those present were Bro. John McCrea, Grand Secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland; Bro. Mervyn Bishop, Grand Treasurer and Bro. George Patton, Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Dennis Watson, County Grand Master of Armagh was also at the ceremony along with a number of Portadown District officers - Bros. Harold Gracey, District Master; David Burrows, Deputy District Master; Nigel Dawson, Robert Guy and Reggie Tedford.

The senior officers of the Women's Orange present included the Grand Mistress, Sister Doreen Wilkinson, Grand

Secretary, Sister Margaret Lewis and Grand Chaplain, Sister Kathleen Weathers.

The new lodge will belong to Portadown Women's District LOL No.3, and a number of officers including Sister Phoebe Gillis, Worshipful District Mistress were present.

There was an especially cordial welcome to the sisters from Monaghan - a new ladies lodge formed in that town a few years ago - it is also part of Portadown District - is flourishing.

The new Aughlish lodge has 12 members, meets on the third Friday of each month, and the principal officers are: WM, Sister Eleanor Hale; Deputy, Sister Pauline Crothers; Secretary, Sister Elizabeth Moorhead; Treasurer, Sister Rhonda Patton and Chaplain, Sister Ellie Rainey.

"Alcohol exists to break hearts"

THE drink and drugs culture is destroying the lives of many young people in Northern Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom and it is time the government tackled the problem with the vigour it deserves.

It has to be said that the liberal attitudes of British Governments during the past 20 years have created the scenario in which the consumption of drink has been encouraged to such an extent that it is now a major problem.

The side effects of over indulgence in alcohol are to be seen in many ways - the increase in crime especially those in which violence is involved, the traffic offences in which alcohol is a big factor, and the huge increase in domestic violence in which wives and children are too often the victims.

Alcohol has also destroyed the enjoyment that many people once found in major events. We have received letters in recent years to the 'Standard' complaining about the excessive drinking which goes on during the 'Eleventh' night bonfires, and also in the vicinity of some of the Orange demonstration fields.

A few years ago an Orange chaplain expressed outrage from a County Armagh 'Twelfth' platform about scenes of drinking by young people, both male and female, in the village through which they had just paraded.

This Presbyterian minister, fearlessly denounced the drinking and described it as an abomination and a disgrace to Protestantism.

In most Ulster cities and towns the evidence of alcohol abuse is all too evident. Young people can be seen most nights, but mostly at weekends under the influence, and drinking sessions take place in parks, along river and canal banks and in quiet areas off the centre of towns.

It would seem that the police often adopt a low-profile attitude to this type of offence. It is also fair to say that they have many other crimes to deal with, but it is surely time there was a clampdown before our society is overwhelmed by the tide of booze.

There is a great revulsion today against smoking, including passive smoking and in most establishments it is strictly prohibited. Society has been condi-

tioned to accept that smoking is not only bad for health but also anti-social.

The same attitude needs to exist about drinking, which all too often is glamorised on television and in other sections of the media. Alcohol is killing people and if anyone doubted this is a letter from a lady who lives in Lincolnshire which appeared in the Daily Mail on May 8 proved the point.

This decent respectable woman poured out her feelings about the death of her young son due to alcohol abuse, "Why does alcohol exist?" she asked.

Answering the question she said "Could it be that alcohol is for spitting away all the money of men caught by its expensive and terrifying grip? Is alcohol's purpose to lose hard-won jobs and diminish self-respect? Or is it to tear out a mother's heart with worry, to rip her apart with stress?"

"Do we have alcohol so that our sons can drive themselves to drink at the age of 29, so that we can follow the coffin of a tall, good-looking son?"

This brave woman, whose son died recently from alcohol said it all when she added, "Alcohol exists

to break hearts".

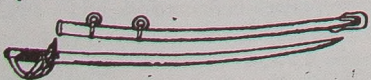
It is time for Ulster to give a lead in this regard and for all with any influence, including those within the Loyal Orders to give a lead.

Let us stand up and be counted ourselves. Are there demonstrations and rallies ruined by excess drinking? Are there lodges where alcohol plays an increasing role? Is it a dangerous trend that more and more Orange Halls are acquiring drink licences with the reason being advanced that it enables bills to be met and improvements carried out?

The price is too high and such reasons must be disregarded. Better to have less lavish premises, and for Orangemen to dig deeper into their pockets and make a personal financial sacrifice than for young men to experience their first temptation by being offered drink at functions at which the Loyal Orders are involved.

The spillover beneficial effects of clamping down on this will far outweigh the disadvantages and will persuade many Christian men who would like to join the Orange Order but are offended by the alcohol factor to seek membership.

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Centenary celebration for Belfast church

MOST of us are anniversary aware. We mark and we want marked times, dates and events which we regard as being especially important to us. And we pay added attention to jubilees, centenaries, bi-centenaries, and the millennium just ahead of us.

A centenary of recent date was that of the parish of St. Clement, Templemore Avenue, Belfast. It had interest for me in that I was one of seven who were made deacons in the church there by the Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Right Rev. W.S. Kerr, on June 26, 1949 - Canon Jim Hall is also still around - and because I was licensed to serve in that parish. Canon W.H.N. Fisher, rector 1912-1955, had been thirty six years in the incumbency when I joined him greatly to my advantage. Incidentally I am the only surviving curate of Canon Fisher. He was not related, as someone has suggested, to Geoffrey Fisher, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, but distantly to Admiral Lord Fisher of the Broke.

Fisher was one of a number of clerical characters in that part of Belfast. They included John Frazer, Willowfield; A.T.I. Ford, St. Patrick's; James Quinn, St. Jude's; C.W.A. Huston, St. Finian's; and L.W. Crooks, Knockbreda. Each of them markedly individualistic and totally Anglican in devotion and practice, and all of them loved and respected for qualities which had their ingredients of eccentricity, self-confidence, and a certainty of correctness shown in opinions and decisions which were expected to have ready acceptance from curates and parishioners.

Willie Fisher's reading of the liturgy and the scriptures and his extraordinary gift of oratory were illustrations in how the public

worship and ministry of the church should be conducted, in sincerity, sensitivity and with dignity. A lover of the language he used it with a precision, intelligibility and clarity which made listening to him a pleasure. It was surprising to some that this highly literate clergyman should have spent such a lengthy ministry in a working class parish in times when opportunities for higher education for working class people were very limited. Because everyone is of value to God, Fisher was proud to serve where he did, and to respond as he did, to the spiritual and material needs of his parishioners. Many of them were unhappily well acquainted with the effects of unemployment, poverty and loss of self-esteem.

In an extra-parochial activity Canon Fisher was an Orangeman, chaplain of his lodge The Star of Down LOL No.428 and of No.6 District, Belfast. He was also a popular preacher at Orange Order services and speaker at functions and events of the Institution. His church was used for the annual divine service of No.428 and for which Willowfield Church was the main venue. The banner of the lodge has a portrait of Canon C.W. Harding, former member and rector of Willowfield Parish, 1900-1922, a clergyman highly esteemed, particularly in the Woodstock and Cregagh area. The Harding Memorial School was so named in gratitude for the special commitment he had to education in the district. His interest in Orangeism was of the same kind as that of Canon Fisher.

Star of Down in the 1940s and 1950s was one of the largest lodges in the district with well attended meetings and interesting discussions and debates on Orangeism, Protestantism and Unionism. And in which when Canon Fisher spoke, everyone lis-

tened. I look back with happy memories of lodge meetings in the Albertbridge Orange Hall in that golden age of LOL No.428 which I joined in 1949 on the proposal of Canon Fisher. It has been my private lodge ever since.

St. Clement's had been made famous, or infamous, because of its first incumbent, the Rev. William Peoples, 1897-1900, known disdainfully as Father Peoples, for his introduction into his services of words and actions regarded by some as Romish and alien to the proper Protestantism of the Church of Ireland. Many people campaigned against him and often disrupted the services of his church. They were led by the most militant popular Protestant preacher and writer of his day, Arthur Trew. The monthly "The Belfast Protestant", organ of the Belfast Protestant Association, in its issues of 1898 and 1899, provide the researcher in another time of sectarian bitterness, with Trew's charges against Peoples, his responses and that of the bishop and church authorities in a drama played out in the streets in mob hysteria and rioting, and in the public press. Under such pressure the church was closed for a short period.

More to be regarded for his contribution to the Church of Ireland and the wider community was J.F. MacNeice, curate and rector 1900-1902, who as Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore, 1934-1942, has left us a small but significantly literary output mostly in sermons and addresses which show a sensitivity and rationality not always apparent in churchmen at a time of gross unemployment, labour and civil unrest and community strife, the major problems of the mid thirties.

The present fine St. Clement's Church

was consecrated on June 14, 1930 by Bishop C.F. D'Arcy and its work and witness has been maintained in the incumbencies of N.R. Hamilton, the late T.W. Gibson, F.W.B. Kenny, James Stewart and now S.D. Logan.

Movement of population from housing redevelopment and a greatly reduced population density, with a stampeding secularism, have contributed to the present state of the parish to make it harder than it was in my day to be effective witnesses to Christ in East Belfast.

As for me, I look back with gratitude on a first curacy in which I found pleasure and profit - not financial when curates were paid a pittance - and where I met church people to be equalled but never bettered at any time anywhere. I name but a few of them and in memoriam, Tom Rain, churchwarden, Sunday School superintendent and popular synodsmen; Harry Echlin Neill, artist, whose work is still highly valued by the experts; Tom and May McMurray for an interest in and care for us which was practical and inspirational. And there were young people who stay in the memory. Two of them, Jim Drennan and Stanley Irvine. We started Jim as a church organist when he played for us in the church-held fellowship class in 1949. He is the organist of St. Molua's, Stormont. Stanley is rector of Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.

It is the wish of all those with St. Clement's connections that the church will continue to witness a good confession of the faith according to the forms and practices, rites and ceremonies of the Church of Ireland.

S.E. LONG.

Canadian soldiers celebration of the 12th

THIS interesting photograph loaned by a County Armagh reader shows a group of Canadian soldiers in France in the year 1916.

It was actually the 12th of July of that year and as our reader explained the Canadian soldiers in the photograph were all Orangemen and even though they were far from the land of the prairies they were determined to celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne.

The buckets were used as 'drums' and the soldiers

entertained into the spirit of it all. Our reader's father served with the Canadian Army in the Great War after emigrating to the Dominion just before the war.

"My father used to tell me they were the salt of the earth those Canadian soldiers. Many Canadian soldiers were Orangemen and their commitment to the Orange cause was total," he said.

That's true and the records show that thousands of Orangemen were among the Canadian sol-

diers in the 1914-18 war, and it was a Canadian soldier who was the first soldier from that Dominion to be awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry in that terrible conflict.

One wonders how many of the young soldiers on that photograph returned home to Canada after the war. The reader who loaned us the photograph said that his father survived the conflict and came back to Northern Ireland after the war.

"He didn't really settle down in Canada after the Armistice and returned here. When the Troubles broke out he joined the 'A' Special Constabulary and served in Belfast and South Armagh, seeing action against the IRA".

How sad it is that Canada's great sacrifice in two World Wars, sending its menfolk to fight for King

and Mother Country far beyond their own homes is so little recognised today in the United Kingdom.

Britain turned its back on Canada and the other Dominions when it joined the Common Market, and it is extremely humiliating for young Canadians coming to London and other British cities to have to walk through the 'aliens' gate when they enter the airport, while people from former enemy countries like Germany and Italy are able to get in with minimum effort.

The cream of Ulster's manhood paid the supreme sacrifice at the Somme and for Canada it was at Vimy Ridge that their soldiers died in their thousands.

Hugh Gaitskill the great Labour leader in the 1960s made an emotional appeal to Britons not to turn their back on Canada, Australia

and New Zealand when the Common Market issue was debated in the early 1960s and he reminded them of the sacrifice at Vimy Ridge and other places.

Sadly, subsequent British political leaders have not been as appreciative of such sacrifices and have preferred to woo former enemies.

It is ironical that when that photograph of the

Canadian soldiers was taken in 1916, the rebels in Dublin had been shooting British soldiers in the back.

That was also the year that Ulster proved its commitment to the Crown by its blood sacrifice at the Somme. Today the sad fact is that British leaders prefer to wine and dine with the descendants of the men of the Easter Rebellion than with those of the true sons of Ulster who perished at the Somme.

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County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge

THE officers and members of County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge meeting in Carrickfergus Town Hall on Wednesday, May 13, 1998 issued the following statement:

"The officers and members having discussed the multi-party talks in detail and acting on the report from the County Grand Masters meeting with the Grand Lodge officers have made the following recommendations to its members. The unanimous decision was taken at a full meeting of the County Grand Lodge.

"The statement reads that on April 15, 1998 the Grand Lodge took note of the Good Friday agreement but, failing the clarification of certain vital issues, decided it could not recom-

mend acceptance to the people of Ulster.

"Officers of the Grand Lodge met the Prime Minister on May 7, who regrettably explained that the multi-party agreement could not be amended or varied.

"Being mindful that our Order is a broad church we fully recognise the right of those of our membership who disagree with us to be guided by their own conscience and to act accordingly.

"However the County Grand Lodge of Antrim, mindful of its obligations to protect the Constitution has no option but to recommend that our members work for a "NO" vote in the referendum on Friday, May 22".

Ballymena District LOL No.8

MEMBERS of Ballymena District LOL No.8, at a special meeting held on Friday, May 8, overwhelmingly decided to back the stance taken by Grand Lodge on the agreement and advised their members to vote "NO" in the referendum.

"The early release of

unrepentant terrorists from prison, Sinn Fein/IRA in government, the destruction of the RUC and the belief that this agreement cannot bring about a just and lasting peace are the main reasons why this district cannot support the agreement."

Co. Armagh Grand Orange Lodge

COUNTY Armagh Grand Orange Lodge, at its meeting in Killylea on May 18, endorsed the actions of its County Grand Lodge officers in issuing the press statement on its behalf on Friday, April 17, 1998.

County Grand Lodge welcomed the clear directive from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and considered the clarification given to the Grand Lodge officers in Downing street by the Prime Minister.

"It supported the recommendation of its own County grand Lodge officers and like them, it is unable to recommend the acceptance of the Belfast agreement to the brethren of Co. Armagh".



Special service

THE Annahoe District Royal Arch Purple Chapter No.6 held their annual service in Ballygawley Parish Church on Sunday, April 26.

The brethren assembled at the Ballygawley roundabout and marched to and from the church, headed by the Bawn Silver Band. The service was conducted by the rector, Rev. Gordon Whitehead.



New officers installed at Orangetfield

Members of Orangetfield LOL No. 564 (Mourne District) pictured after the recent installation of new officers at Ballinran Orange Hall. Seated are: Bros. Sam Forsyth, Chaplain; Jim Martin, WDM; R. G. Graham, WM; Ken Parke, DM; Eddie McKeown, DDM; Stanley Spier, Secretary. Standing are other officers of the lodge. Picture: Rathfriland Outlook.

Grand Lodge says 'No'

SINCE the publication of the agreement we have given it careful and detailed consideration. We had hoped that it would offer such a real prospect of peace that we could positively endorse it. Sadly that has not been the case.

Grand Lodge of Ireland at its meeting on April 15, decided that failing clarification of certain vital issues we could not recommend the agreement.

Clarification was sought from a variety of sources including a request for a meeting with the Prime Minister.

Before meeting Mr. Blair we were aware that Her Majesty's government as one of the parties to a multi party agreement could not unilaterally vary or amend it. We thought it right however to meet the Prime Minister, to express our concerns and listen carefully to his responses.

Having heard the Prime Minister's response we are confirmed in our opinion that those matters in the agreement that we find objectionable are unalter-

able and we have communicated this to our County Grand Masters for transmission to their members.

The Orange Institution is an organisation committed to civil and religious liberty and as such cannot instruct anyone how to vote, and would urge everyone to read and study the agreement. However, in light of the clarification received and for the reasons previously documented the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland is unable to recommend the agreement to the people of Ulster.

The Grand Lodge is of the opinion that the Agreement provides for such things as:

- Dublin interference in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland.
- The prospect of an undemocratically accountable Assembly.
- The prospect of unrepentant terrorists in the executive of the proposed Assembly.
- The Maryfield Secretariat and the Anglo Irish Agreement in another guise.

Mourne District LOL No.6

A meeting of Mourne District LOL No.6 was held in Killeel on Tuesday, May 19, to discuss the forthcoming referendum. It was agreed to support the Grand Lodge of Ireland's press statement as follows:

"The Grand Lodge of Ireland takes note of the acceptance by the participants to the talks process

of April 10, but failing clarification of certain vital issues cannot recommend it to the people of Ulster".

County Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge

"WE the members of County Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge cannot recommend the Good Friday agreement to our members. We support the stand taken by the officers of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and by those

Members of Parliament who have spoken out against it.

"We are totally opposed to the early release of unrepentant republican terrorists from prison, the bringing of Sinn Fein-IRA into government, and the pro-

posed measures to undermine and destroy the RUC. We are convinced that this agreement cannot bring about a just and lasting peace, and we therefore urge our members to vote "NO" on May 22, 1998".

Castlewellan District LOL No.12 (Co. Down)

Castlewellan District LOL No.12 (Co. Down) "THE officers of the above District having considered the "Good Friday" agreement call on all Unionists to exercise their vote in the forthcom-

ing referendum on May 22. However, the officers of Castlewellan District cannot recommend the agreement to their membership or to the wider Unionist community. The officers fully support

the stance of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland as stated on May 13, 1998, in not recommending the agreement and leaving it up to members own conscience."

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