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NEWS
RELEASE

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Ulster Unionist Party

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Release Time EMBARGO 8.00 P.M. MONDAY 12th DECEMBER, 1977.

Speaking at Woodvale Unionist Association the Chairman
Mr. Thomas Passmore, said:-

Extracts

One suspects that the Nobel Peace Award may have affected the leaders of the Peace People, perhaps the ceremonial surrounding the whole affair has gone to their heads.

Having listened to part of Betty Williams interview with John Deering on R.T.E. which I considered offensive and at times downright misleading I can only conclude Oslow was too much for her.

According to Mrs. Williams, Ulster politicians are dishonest, rotten and responsible for the division in the "Northern Irish" Community, she implied there was never democracy in Northern Ireland and she "couldn't" take it any longer so the Peace Movement must make changes. If the changes are those outlined by Ciaran McKeown through his "Peace People's Communities" then Ulster must be made aware that such a structure of government would mean the end of British democracy and the establishment of a Soviet type State.

For more than 50 years this Province was governed as an integral part of the U.K. by its devolved government elected democratically through the ballot-box. In 1969 the I.R.A. launched its present campaign of violence using the so-called Civil Rights movement and the supposed issue of "one man one vote". Until that time Protestants and Roman Catholics lived peacefully side by side without any Peace People, the real issue is not which Church people belong to but whether Ulster is going to remain British or be forced into an All Ireland Republic.

Our Local Politicians have become scape-goats and bogeymen for the Peace People and while I have been critical of them myself (there are good and bad in every walk of life) I believe on the whole they represent the views of the people more honestly to-day than ever before.

Is the Peace People's movement being completely honest in their criticism, we still await their apology for accusing the Orange Widow's Fund of being used to get money into Ulster for illegal purposes. Of course the mention of money always raises the question, of what has happened to the hundreds of thousands of pounds which have poured into the Peace People's Fund, will they publish an account which can be inspected by anyone interested in their various projects.

Dealing with current events Mr. Passmore reminded every loyalist elector to check that his name was on the electoral list as we only had until the 15th Dec., to correct any mistakes, It will be no use going to vote in the next Election if your name is not on the register. Our duty as Unionists is to remind the Ulster people that we cannot be bombed or burned into an Irish Republic and the I.R.A. can never win while we vote solid Unionist.

We deplore the manner in which successive British Governments have devalued the ballot-box in Ulster every electoral trick in the book (including proportional representation) has been used to divide the Unionist people and to make us feel we are less than British thank goodness so far without success.

Regarding the present round of talks Ulster people are not fooled by the promises of "Real Power" which Westminster proposes to give a future devolved Ulster government.

They are exactly the same powers that the contrived Faulkner/Fitt Executive were going to administer and which the electorate rejected.

Both Roy Mason and Airey Neave are "waffling", on the real issue at stake where a political solution for Ulster is concerned.

If we are ever again to have a devolved government it must be on the basis of ordinary democracy which means majority rule. Anything less than that will not work and should our political parties be stupid enough to make some special arrangements contrary to this principle, the people will reject it in an ensuing election. In which case we would find ourselves in a worse state of political confusion.

If the Labour Party persists in its policy of forcing us to accept a sham power-sharing Parliament, all the talks in the world with Roy Mason will lead to nowhere. On the other hand if Airey Neave gives us a watertight assurance that the conservative Party has repented of its Heath policy then constructive talks could be got under way towards a real political settlement.