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You cannot deny an Opposition in Stormont and be surprised when it emerges on the streets



TUV Leader Jim Allister has claimed that the denial of an opposition in Stormont has led to opposition on the streets.

In a statement Jim Allister explained:-

"When the political elite devise a self-serving system at Stormont which denies an opposition, they should not be surprised when opposition emerges on the streets.

"In a regular democracy an Opposition at Stormont would be securing debates and giving voice to concerns which in our absurd system are driven to the streets.

"If politicians ever want to address the cause of protest and give it an alternative outlet, then, they must face up to the imperative of fundamental reform of Stormont and, in particular, the establishment of the fundamental democratic right of permitting an Opposition. Totalitarian rule may be the

way in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), but it should have no place in Stormont. Yet, by suppressing the right to an Opposition is how we are governed in this part of the UK, courtesy of the iniquitous Belfast Agreement.

"The totalitarians of Stormont will not lecture protestors off the streets, rather they must provide a democratic alternative, which they currently deny."

Jim Allister further challenged the DUP on the St. Andrews agreement.

Mr Allister claimed:

"The DUP need to do much more over the fall-out from the flag issue than the First Minister decline to appear for photos with his co-equal McGuinness. Photographed together or not, the reality is that politically they are joined at the hip.

"Therein is an issue central to the flags controversy: the DUP is sustaining Sinn Fein in government as it wages its cultural war on unionism. Hence, the rising grassroots antipathy to the DUP,

especially as it becomes clear that keeping itself and Sinn Fein in power is their top priority. Even in Stormont the tempo seems to have gone out of increasing the flying of the union flag from Parliament Buildings.

"You can't with credibility put Sinn Fein into power and then pretend surprise when they implement their anti-British agenda, of which removal of the flag is but a part. It is the implementation of the Belfast Agreement - which the DUP, despite its pathetic pretence, is overseeing day and daily - that is the dynamo driving the purge of our Britishness.

"For those looking for leadership out of the flag crisis it will require a willingness to face up to the failure and malevolent centrality of the Belfast Agreement and a political willingness to address this elephant in the room. It is hard to see the DUP or UUP making the sacrifice necessary to chart this course; hence, their overriding desire to calm things down and carry on as before."

Allister Visits Newtownards Road

TUV leader Jim Allister spent an afternoon visiting residents on the Lower Newtownards Road and in Cluan Place accompanied by East Belfast TUV chairman Harry Toan.

Commenting on the visit Mr Allister said:

"Many of the people who spoke to me expressed a feeling of abandonment. Incredible as it may seem, the First Minister - or indeed any of the DUP MLAs for East Belfast - seem not to have

been seen in the area since the trouble broke out.

"It is evident that - contrary to what Sinn Fein/IRA would have us believe - the trouble is not all one sided with some local people even forced to improvise means to prevent their windows being put in as a result of objects being thrown from the Short Strand.

"I also heard many express annoyance about the imbalance in the policing approach, with those accused

of troublemaking on the Loyalist side pursued aggressively while no appreciable, detectable attempt is made to stop attacks from within Short Strand.

"The disconnect which seems to be emerging between at least some in the Unionist community and the PSNI is deeply worrying and something which needs to be addressed urgently. This is an issue which I have raised with the Chief Constable."

"The most rousing orator on the night was TUV leader Jim Allister"

Ulster Herald on
Castledearg Flag
Protest

"The Bill is a test, therefore, of Northern Irish governance, Northern Irish democracy and the kind of values that we, in Northern Ireland, are seen to cherish."

Dr Máire Braniff of the
University of Ulster on
Jim Allister SPAD Bill

Allister demands answers on horse meat revelations

TUV Leader Jim Allister has tabled a series of Assembly Questions in light of the disclosure that horse meat has been found in meat products on sale in Northern Ireland.

Commenting on the evolving situation Jim Allister said:

"Farms, on foot of EU wide regulation, are inspected endlessly and if anything is found wrong the consequences are severe, with loss of SFP and other penalties, yet, it seems some meat plants have been mixing in horse meat into beef products, which begs the question of how adequate

inspection of plants has been?

"It is important that DARD and the Food Standards Agency demonstrate they are, and have been, on top of the situation. Accordingly, I am tabling the following Assembly Questions:-

To ask DARD what if any finds of horse DNA, or other foreign material, has been found in any of Northern Ireland's meat plants in each of the last 5 years.

To ask DARD given the finds of horse DNA in meat plants elsewhere in the British Isles, what assurance is there that the provenance of material

processed in Northern Ireland's meat plants is beyond reproach.

To ask DARD given the finds of horse DNA in meat plants elsewhere in the British Isles, how confident is the department in the fitness for purpose of the horse passport system in operation in Northern Ireland and what changes are anticipated.

To ask DARD how often inspectors actually visit meat plants in Northern Ireland to check on the provenance of meat being processed therein, and how the frequency compares with 5 years ago.

Allister hails 'Welcome to Northern Ireland' signs on A1 from Dublin

For years Jim Allister has called for the erection of "Welcome to Northern Ireland" signs on all main roads into Northern Ireland and the DRD Minister has finally confirmed such a sign will be erected.

Commenting Jim Allister stated:

"I am pleased to have received a positive reply from the DRD Minister, Danny Kennedy, announcing that, at last, such a sign is planned for the A1, the main road from Dublin. It is only sensible and right that passage from one jurisdiction to another is physically

marked with signage which welcomes the visitor to Northern Ireland.

"Some time ago Sinn Fein threw some juvenile tantrums over such signs elsewhere, but I'm glad Mr Kennedy is pushing ahead with such essential signage on the main Dublin to Belfast road."

The text of Mr Allister's Assembly Question and the Answer is as follows:-

Question:

To ask the Minister for Regional Development to detail when a 'Welcome to

Northern Ireland' sign will be erected at the border on the M1 from Dublin.

Answer:

The proposed 'Welcome to Northern Ireland' Sign will be erected on the A1 dual carriageway (Northbound) at the land frontier with the Republic of Ireland, during late February / early March 2013.

The main purpose of the sign is to advise drivers using this road that the national speed limit is in miles per hour and it will include the message 'Welcome to Northern Ireland'.

Shameful BBC slight on Ballymena

Jim Allister MLA has spoken out after a BBC documentary cast a slight on the town of Ballymena.

Jim Allister stated:

"I was shocked and appalled when in the BBC NI Documentary "Here Comes the Summer", The Undertones Story, Journalist and Broadcaster Waldemar Januszczak described Ballymena as a "terrifying

Protestant town". The documentary also shows anti-British songs being sung by young children without comment. Is it any wonder the BBC finds itself the subject of criticism from far and wide as to its anti-Unionist bias.

"I have written to the BBC to outline my concerns and to remind them that the reputation of Ballymena should not be gratuitously damaged by such unwarranted comments.

Ballymena, like other parts of Northern Ireland, is suffering during the current economic crisis and relies on its image and reputation to lure investors and businesses alike that can stimulate the local economy.

"Quite frankly the BBC owe Ballymena and its people an apology."

TUV Responds to Border Poll Developments

TUV responded to calls for a border poll after the DUP suggested such a poll might be held.

In a Statement by TUV Leader Jim Allister explained:

"Whether the DUP's lurch towards meeting Sinn Fein's demand for a border poll is stunt politics or a thought out strategy, it certainly doesn't grapple with the statutory reality which dictates the only circumstances in which a border poll can be held.

"The legislation is very clear. As a condition precedent to the calling of any such poll the Secretary of State must

believe the outcome would likely provide an Irish unity majority. The legislation is clear: "the Secretary of State shall exercise the power under paragraph 1 if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland."

"Is the DUP seriously suggesting the Secretary of State should be so satisfied, not forgetting that a poll can then trigger successive polls every 7 years - a recipe for constitutional instability?

"Unless the Secretary of State is satisfied a majority to leave the UK is likely, which seems fantasy, then, there is no legislative basis whereby a referendum can be held. It would require legislative amendment to permit a referendum without the strings attached of anticipating a vote in favour of destruction of the UK.

"We are part of the UK, some tell us the Union has never been safer, so a referendum premised on expecting change and triggering a series of referenda, does not seem sensible or stabilising politics."



TUV receive positive news on Welcome to Northern Ireland signage

Exploding the myth of EU dependency

Jim Allister has obtained figures which explode the myth of EU dependency.

In a Statement Jim Allister explained:

"Frequently we hear pro-EU propaganda about how we are so dependent on the EU for our exports that we couldn't survive outside the EU.

"Not only is that nonsense as far as our nation as a whole is concerned, but figures which I've obtained from DFP in answer to an Assembly Question demonstrate it is

particular nonsense in regard to Northern Ireland.

"Even with an EU state just across the land border, less than 20% of our manufactured goods are exported within the EU. 59% of our exports go to GB, less than 10% to the Republic and a similar figure to the rest of the EU, with a higher percentage, namely 21%, going to the rest of the world. Indeed, it is interesting to note that we sell three times the value of the goods we manufacture within our own small country of Northern Ireland in comparison to what

we sell either to the Republic or the rest of the EU.

"So, this notion that we must remain within the stifling and oppressive EU to survive economically is a myth. The EU is one of our least important trading partners. On the contrary, our primary market is the rest of the UK and thus our interests lie in sustaining and strengthening that link. As for the Republic it is but a bit player in our exporting matrix, yet, foolishly under devolution we have been tying our economic fortunes far too closely to it."



TUV: Explode myth of EU dependency

Sinn Fein's anti selection Dogma drives everything in Education

Commenting on a recent reply he received to an Assembly Question from John O'Dowd, TUV Leader Jim Allister has said every strand of Sinn Fein policy in education is driven relentlessly by its anti academic selection agenda.

Jim Allister stated:

"Be it area planning, the entitlement framework, funding formula changes, or ESA, it is all designed to end academic selection. Already the curriculum is

anti-selection, being designed to obstruct testing, but now on top O'Dowd has a raft of policies deployed for the same purpose, the destruction of the grammar schools.

"In this answer O'Dowd admits everything is choreographed towards the same end, with area planning, in particular, seen as a major tool in his destructive hands. Those MLAs who are supposed supporters of academic selection and the grammar

schools should re-examine why they are helping Sinn Fein towards their goal by backing ESA and all that flows from it.

"Under devolution Sinn Fein has made destruction of our education system its priority and during their watch they've taken every opportunity to attack the grammar schools, with ESA and area planning their key weapons."



O'Dowd dogma continues to drive education

New Year Message from TUV Leader Jim Allister

New Year Message from TUV Leader Jim Allister:



"2012 was a year in which we celebrated our Britishness, most notably through the Diamond Jubilee, the Covenant and national success in the Olympics, yet it ended with the tearing down of the Union flag from the prime civil building in our capital city.

"The removal of the flag from Belfast City Hall was no random act, but part of a concerted effort to diminish and extinguish the culture embraced by the greater number. Nor, is it unrelated to the wider political programme rooted in the

pernicious Belfast Agreement of 1998 and manifested in its daily outworking of terrorists in government and insidious nudging towards Irish unification. Culture is IRA/Sinn Fein's new theatre of war, which they wage from the highest offices in the land, with the tacit complicity of those who brought them into government.

"The DUP can't put Sinn Fein in government and be surprised by the results! You get what you vote for, or what others want if you don't bother to vote.

"I discern a growing realisation of the nexus between electing those who facilitate Sinn Fein and the implementation of Sinn Fein's anti British cultural pogrom. Part of the challenge in 2013 is to

move peaceful flag protest into concerted and informed political action which addresses the reasons why Sinn Fein has been enabled to suppress our culture. Ceasing to vote for their facilitators is an obvious and necessary step, as is moving to recognise that the basic democratic deficits of the anti-unionist Belfast Agreement must be addressed – namely, the denials of the right to vote a party out of government and the right to even have an Opposition, which are the consequences of the evil of mandatory coalition. These wrongs must be righted if Stormont is ever to have any credibility with the people.

"In 2013 TUV will continue to blaze a trail for the re-establishment of these basic democratic credentials. Instead of slipping into deeper disconnect from the

political elite at Stormont, I invite unionists who care to join the opposition which TUV brings to the present failed Stormont coalition. It is only by having tangible political goals that progress can be made and ridding Northern Ireland of the blight of mandatory coalition is imperative to a workable democracy at ease with a people bestowed with the basic democratic right of changing their government through democratic elections – something, presently denied.

"In 2013 it is time to face up to the lamentable failures of Stormont and to its modus operandi of 'what Sinn Fein wants, Sinn Fein gets'. Understanding that the system of mandatory coalition and denial of Opposition lie at the heart of such failures is the starting point in putting things right."

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Interesting Evidence From Academics in Support of SPAD Bill

Dr Máire Braniff from the University of Ulster offered the following advice on the SPAD Bill proposed by Jim Allister MLA:

" the best way to honour the dead is to:

"dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust ... of all."

We see the Bill as a belated attempt to honour that pledge. We would argue that, focusing on its potential and the responsibility that you, as legislators, have towards us, the citizens, the tired and

circular debate over conflicting rights can be surmounted. As such, we defend the Bill for the following political reasons. The Bill redresses an ongoing sidelining of victims. That sidelining takes many forms, from the idea that everyone was in some way responsible and, therefore, no one is culpable, to the idea that the onus for truth recovery lies within the British and Irish Governments, thereby ignoring the fact that the IRA was to blame for the vast majority of the killings.

The Bill sends out a signal

that reconciliation is not just about moving forward but that it also has a historical dimension. The Bill has been dismissed as divisive and anti-peace process. We contend that that is only true if we equate peace to amnesia and if we equate justice to [Inaudible.] Finally, the Bill represents a first step towards Madison's advice: either the Government can be trusted to govern for everyone or else it is made to.

The Bill is saying that political murder was indefensible. That message is shared across many

political parties. People from diverse backgrounds, such as Austin Currie to John Alderdice and William Craig to John Hume, have all argued that violence was not worth a single life. We believe that politicians should grasp the opportunity to say to future generations that violence is not reasonable or an ethical option, and politics and democracy can be seen to work.

The Bill is a test, therefore, of Northern Irish governance, Northern Irish democracy and the kind of values that we, in Northern Ireland, are seen to cherish.