



ASSOCIATE
MEMBER

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THE DAY THE FLAGS FLEW OVER STORMONT

SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1972, WAS A MOMENTOUS DAY IN THE HISTORY OF ULSTER.

Thousands of loyalists turned out to demonstrate their resolve to have their own Parliament back at Stormont.

Speakers included the former Prime Minister, Lord Brookeborough; Rev. Martin Smyth, Mr. Billy

Hull, Mr. Glennie Barr, Pastor Jack Glass and Rt. Hon. Wm. Craig, The Rev. Roy Magee and Rev. R. Dickinson led in Bible reading and prayer and Capt. Austin Ardill chaired the meeting.

Mr. Craig pleaded for the return of Stormont and indicated that force is not out of the question. "To-day we are knocking at the door, asking for our rights. One day—if there's no other way of getting our rights, we'll storm this Stormont and establish in this country a government of the people that governs with the consent of the people," he said.

Perhaps the happiest point in the proceedings was when flags were hoisted on the two poles on top of Parliament buildings. Earlier the authorities had refused to let the flags be flown and when Capt. Ardill announced that all the representations to date has been without success the mood of the crowd became angry. However, after consultations with the authorities Vanguard representatives and the police persuaded them to fly the flags and the crowd immediately broke into the singing of the National Anthem.

However, let it be said, through the medium of this paper, that it was a disgraceful decision not to permit the flying of the Union Flag on Parliament buildings and it is an indication of the terrible state our country has reached when Her Majesty's representatives are not prepared to fly the flag of the country.

We live for the day when the flag will be flying everywhere in the province.

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being committed by persons other than Roman Catholics.

Heath will say that his intelligence agents can prove otherwise. The Pope will make a speech condemning all violence from no matter what side it comes. Press reports will say that Ted has had a successful talk with Paul. The bombs, bullets and torture will continue. The Church of Rome does not want them to stop until its aim and the aim of the I.R.A. is fulfilled.

Loyalists say that it never will be fulfilled.

Heath to meet the Pope

How can Ulster have faith in Westminster politicians when all one has to do is listen to the utterances of political leaders in the Liberal and Labour Parties who envisage a United Ireland and want this to be the long-term aim of the British Government.

And more recently the attachments of Unionists in Ulster to the Conservative Party have been stretched beyond the limits of continued political partnership by the announcement that the Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, is to meet the Pope and ask for his assistance in Northern Ireland's troubles and bring him up-to-date on the Darlington Conference.

The very fact that Heath is prepared to visit Rome before he visits Belfast and speak to the Pope, a complete foreigner, before he would talk to ordinary British subjects is condemnation enough of the Westminster Government.

However, I believe that one very proper conclusion to draw from his new swing in our affairs is that now, at last, we have a clear statement, even though it is indirect, of the role which the Roman Catholic Church is playing in the present troubles.

Before this loyalists were accused of being bigoted when suggesting that the Church of Rome was up to its ears in Ulster's plight but now that the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has to go to the head of the Roman Church and ask for his help we have proof positive of the involvement of many members of this church in the murders and bombings and maimings of the past four years.

Heath is going to request that the Pope bring his subjects to heel. His Holiness in turn will probably say that most of the atrocities are