



EDITORIAL

SURRENDER AND BETRAYAL

On March 8th Ulster voted to remain British and proclaimed emphatically that she did not want to join the Republic of Ireland.

On March 20th the Heath Government published the White Paper outlining the type of government structures which Northern Ireland is to have.

Mr. Whitelaw has had numerous meetings and consultations with representatives of opinion in the Province attempting to arrive at an Ulster settlement which would have the backing of majority opinion—Catholic and Protestant in the country.

During the week previous to the publication of the White Paper the Secretary of State had 'final' discussions with these interested parties even though the White Paper was in draft form, if not printed, before the Border Poll took place.

Now that we have had time to read and study the White Paper proposals it has become clear to Ulster Loyalists that the answer we must give to Mr. Whitelaw and his Westminster colleagues is an emphatic No. To accept the terms laid down in the Paper would be to accept the future annihilation of the State. The task before us is to educate the populace to the realisation that if this framework of Government is implemented then Ulster will be on the slippery slope leading to an all-Ireland Republic.

One could write a fair-sized booklet on why one objects to the Whitelaw proposals but space does not permit. Briefly let us look at three of the main stipulations contained in the Paper.

(i) Power Sharing

"It is the view of the Government that the Executive itself can no longer be solely based upon any single party, if that party draws its support and its elected representation virtually entirely from only one section of a divided community." (Para. 52).

Thus we have spelt out for us that British democracy is no longer to govern the essential command structure in the country. We are to have imposed on us an alien system whereby members of opposition parties, i.e. Republicans, will be able to form part of the Executive. And Mr. Whitelaw is to be in complete authority when it comes to appointing members to the Executive. If he does not want someone in it he will veto that person. "The Constitution Bill will provide that formal appointment of persons to be the political Heads of Departments in Northern Ireland ... will be effected by the Secretary of State." (Para 72).

Government by the majority has been thrown out the window. One of the most important demands sought by the opposition has been conceded.

(ii) Security

It has been the contention of loyalists that control of the police should return to the hands of elected Northern Ireland politicians. Indeed it was on this very issue which Brian Faulkner and

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