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By Noel McAdam
Tuesday, 4 November 2008

DUP MLA Nelson McCausland was unrepentant today after being suspended from the Assembly for refusing to withdraw detailed claims of Gerry Adams' alleged membership of the IRA.

The North Belfast MLA said his statement yesterday was based on Ed Maloney's book Secret History of the IRA which was in the Assembly library and bookshops.

He became the second MLA to be suspended since devolution was restored, after Iris Robinson attacked Health Minister Michael McGimpsey.

Speaking afterwards, he said: "The Speaker was simply implementing the rules of the Assembly but I was not prepared to withdraw my statement."

Mr Adams yesterday said he refuted the claims and Sinn Fein is thought

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to have complained to the Speaker William Hay.

What are these?

During a debate on the Disappeared in the Assembly yesterday, Mr McCausland said Adams joined the IRA in 1966, aged 18, and the Provisionals in 1970.

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Remember Me

 I left the country in 1980...some things haven't changed I see.

Posted by bishop len brennan | 04.11.08, 19:08 GMT

 I will not sit and debate a frivolous argument started by a bunch of time-wasters. I am quite happy about the suspension, but not for the reasons you might think. The politicians, and I mean all, are elected to represent the people. They are not elected to bicker and conduct slagging matches, show bigotry by using religion as a defense, criticise people for wearing or not wearing a poppy or block executive meetings by inaction or subversive actions. Is this really what they are paid to do? We, the people, should consider applying to the parades commission so as to have a legal march to Stormont to oust the expensive time-wasters that they are.


Posted by PC | 04.11.08, 14:31 GMT

 Hence there is no point in a Truth and Reconciliation Commission because some people can't handle the truth when even the dogs in the street know it.


Posted by Paedar | 04.11.08, 14:17 GMT

 why do my comments keep being trimmed?? As I was saying Gerry Adams is the biggest hypocrite!

Posted by BILL | 04.11.08, 13:57 GMT

 Northern Ireland doesnt need hysterical politicians John?? Northern Ireland also doesnt need Hypocritical politicians!!

Posted by BILL | 04.11.08, 13:44 GMT

 The Republic of Ireland's own branch of intelligence have stated dates that Adams was part of the IRA Inner Army Council. So how can a man be suspended for stating this?

Posted by Collin | 04.11.08, 13:39 GMT


 What's the big deal,sure the DUP put them into government

Posted by UNIONCRUISER | 04.11.08, 13:16 GMT




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 Is what he said true? If it is, then he should not be suspended. If it's false, then suspension is fair. Come on BT journalists , let's have the true story!


Posted by robbo | 04.11.08, 13:16 GMT

 A DUP MLA, yet again, being outspoken and hysterical. Northern Ireland doesnt need hysterical politicians. The correct thing has been done by suspending Mr McCausland. Politicians, especially in NI, need to be very, very calm when representing their electorate. NI has suffered from a history of MP's being far too emotional than is their right to be. That is, the electorate look to their MP to resolve problems by talking. Action is for the man on the street - not the MP.

Posted by John | 04.11.08, 13:04 GMT

 What's all this 'alleged membership' business about.

Posted by BILL | 04.11.08, 12:27 GMT

 Tell us something we didn't know! Talk about state the obvious. Can't think why Adams is pretending to be insulted thought he had much thicker skin than that.

Posted by Liz | 04.11.08, 12:26 GMT

 On what grounds was he suspended? Did he somehow offend Adams with this claim of IRA involvment? I'm sure Adams was appalled at such an accusation!!!

Posted by mickey | 04.11.08, 12:20 GMT

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