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Unionists 'dishonest' in Troubles report reaction

Monday, 2 February 2009

One of the authors of a report on the legacy of the Troubles has accused some senior unionists of being "almost duplicitous" in their response to it.

Former GAA star Jarlath Burns, a member of the Consultative Group on the Past, was speaking on BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence programme.

Mr Burns said politicians spoke to the report team confidentially.

He said it was a "bit dishonest and almost duplicitous, some comments from people who had actually told us privately completely different things".

When asked it he was referring to senior unionists he replied "absolutely".

"A lot of our politicians came up with a lot of the ideas which we had but felt that they couldn't really present them publicly or couldn't support us publicly," he said.

"One or two politicians said 'I know and I understand what you are doing in this report but I can't support this publicly because I'd take a tremendous hit for it'.

"Individually we found politicians very helpful, but once they get into this thing called the political party, very often they have to hide behind the policies and rhetoric of that party."

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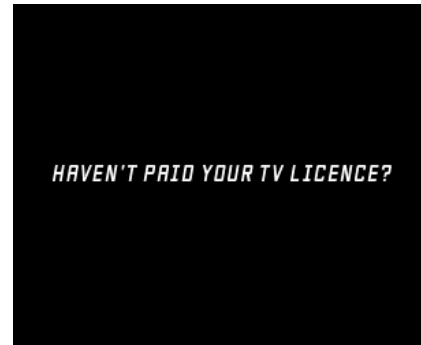
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