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Campbell calls for apology from McGuinness



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By Staff reporter

East Derry MP Gregory Campbell has tabled a motion at Westminster calling for Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness to make a full disclosure of any IRA activities he may have been involved in.

The DUP MP condemned the Deputy First Minister for comments made in a radio interview last weekend where he said he wanted to kill every British soldier on the streets of Derry in the aftermath of Bloody Sunday.

Mr. Campbell said he was "disgusted" by the remarks and said they ignored killings carried out by the IRA before and after Bloody Sunday.

"Like many people, I was disgusted by Martin McGuinness's ham-fisted attempt to play to the Sinn Féin base at the weekend by claiming he would have killed every British soldier he could after Bloody Sunday in 1972.

"Having been forced to sign up to policing and British legal institutions and sitting in Stormont, a building Sinn Féin vowed to bring down, administering British rule, one can see why Mr. McGuinness is reduced to petulant comments such as these in order to keep Sinn Féin's hardcore supporters on-side. The truth of the matter however, is that comments such as these have no place in sensible political discourse," he said.

Mr. Campbell also called for Martin McGuinness to make an "unreserved apology" to the victims of IRA violence.

Limavady Colr. Leslie Cubitt also said he was disgusted by Mr. McGuinness's comments, but not surprised.

Speaking at a council meeting on Tuesday night in Limavady, the Ulster Unionist Coalition Colr. asked: "Was he not an active member of the IRA on that day? Is he still a member of the army council?"

Mr. Cubitt went on to say: "The thing that worries me most is that the DUP MLAs give Marty the respect by allowing him to be our Deputy First Minister.

He added: "Is it not time for them to pull the plug on this so called democracy, this charade at Stormont, or is the lure of money and power too powerful to have a conscience?"

The full article contains 349 words and appears in Journal Friday newspaper.

Last Updated: 29 February 2008 10:02 AM

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aye right then,

29/02/2008 13:13:10

Yeah Greg.I'm sure McGuinness's apology will come as soon as the British army's, British intelligence's, RUC's, Special Branch's, UDR's, UDA's, UVF's, LVF's. Because every single one of them was involoved in a dirty wee "war", colluding and infiltrating each other while innocent people got killed. Of course he isn't going to be disclosing everything, why would he, his opposite numbers aren't. And moreover the state forces had a duty to protect innocent civilians, whether Catholic or Protestant, and in many cases they did the exact opposite. This is the start of a long debate about resolving pain from the past as opposed to bloody boy soldiers, is that what Mr. Cubitt is proposing we return to.His comments are just the by-product of an arrogance or possible ignorance of unionists about their own wrong-doing in the past, and their negative contribution to a downward spiral of conflict that we are only beginning to

climb out of. It was a long binge of violence, there's a big hangover for that.

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