

Monday 9 February 2009

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- Election Results 2007
- Election Results 2005
- Election Results 2003
- Email Updates
- Text Message Updates
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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****DUP motion on Eames-Bradley to be debated in Assembly**

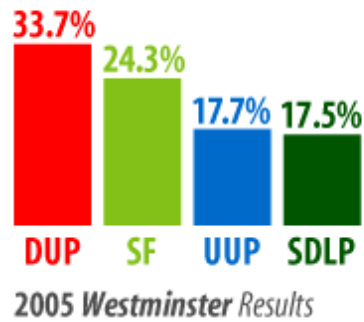
DUP MP for Upper Bann David Simpson has reiterated the DUP's opposition to the recommendation within the Eames-Bradley Consultative Group on the Past's report. Mr Simpson is the co-signatory of a DUP motion which will be debated in the Assembly next Monday. The motion recognises the importance of victims needs and condemns proposals which equate terrorists and their victims. Mr Simpson said this debate will provide a useful platform for the strong feelings which exist within the community to be aired. Speaking today Mr Simpson said,



"The Democratic Unionist Party has made it quite clear that we believe the Consultative Group on the Past's proposal to pay £12,000 the families of everyone killed during the troubles, regardless of their status, blurs the lines between perpetrator and victim. As a Party we will never support any proposal which can lead to those who went out to deliberately murder being equated with their innocent victims.

The Consultative Group were given their task by the Secretary of State and their recommendations will ultimately have to be either accepted or rejected by the Prime Minister. However, it is vital that the people of Northern Ireland can have their views

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expressed during the debate which myself and Lord Morrow have secured in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Eames-Bradley group were given a task of gaining consensus on how we might seek to deal with the past in Northern Ireland and in this they have most certainly failed in that task. I would hope that the Prime Minister and the Government will listen clearly to the views which will be expressed during the debate on Monday.

I have spoken to a wide range of people since the first details started to emerge last week as a result of the press briefing given by the Consultative Group. I have been struck by the strength of feeling I have encountered about these proposals, from right across every section of the community. I believe that Northern Ireland people are desperate to move on from the terrorism and violence which blighted this country for over thirty years. However, I do not believe that people are prepared to witness an attempt to rewrite history and to place everyone in Northern Ireland who suffered together into one 'box' which will equate terrorism and victimhood.

As a party we will continue to strive for a better future for this Province and to work for the victims who still mourn and many of whom still bear physical and mental scars. We will not let the kind of unacceptable proposals emanating from Eames-Bradley deter us from that work."

Note To Editors: The text of the motion tabled by David Simpson MP MLA and Lord Morrow MLA is as follow:

"That this Assembly recognises the importance of meeting the needs of victims; and condemns proposals from the Consultative Group on the Past which equate perpetrators of violence with innocent victims."

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