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LOCAL NEWS



Nelson McCaulsand

Tuesday 04 November 2008 14:22

Nelson McCausland gets thrown out of Assembly chamber

A member of the DUP was ejected from the Northern Ireland Assembly chamber today for alleging Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams had played a leading role in the IRA.

Nelson McCausland was applauded by party colleagues as he left the chamber having been given a one day ban for refusing to withdraw the remarks.

He made the claims during a debate yesterday on victims of republican violence whose bodies have yet to be recovered, though Mr Adams refuted the allegations made against him.

While relatives of the 'Disappeared' looked on from the public gallery yesterday,

Mr McCausland accused Mr Adams of being the Belfast Commander of the IRA in the 1970s and of setting up specialist units which killed and disposed of so-called informers.

But today Assembly Speaker Willie Hay said: "I indicated during yesterday`s sitting on several occasions that I had some concerns about remarks that had been made during a debate on the Disappeared in this house yesterday."

He said allegations of criminal behaviour had been made against another member.

The Speaker added: "These allegations were very clearly denied and refuted by the member concerned in the house here yesterday, Mr Adams."

"I regard the remarks as being unparliamentary and I would call on Mr McCauslan

But the DUP member responded: "The statements which I made about the member (journalist) Ed Moloney`s book A Secret History Of The IRA, which is available in the statements which I made about the member (journalist) Ed Moloney`s book A Secret History Of The IRA, which is available in the statements which I made about the member responded:

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"I will not therefore be withdrawing the statement."

To cheers from DUP members, he added: "As Mr Adams keeps calling for truth recovery, I think it`s important that we get to the truth on these matters."

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Mr McCausland was then ordered to leave the chamber and banned from today's Assembly proceedings.

The material for this story has been provided by PA

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