

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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WEDNESDAY, 21 JUN 2000

cc Paul McGarry

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UUP South Antrim Convention

1. I spoke to Jack Allen, Treasurer of the Ulster Unionist Party, about the South Antrim selection convention in Temlepatrick last night. Allen said that the result, a David Burnside victory over Trimble's chief of staff David Campbell, was a personal blow to the UUP leader.

2. Allen said that Trimble will put a brave face on the result in public but Trimble strongly dislikes Burnside. There was a bitter row between the two men at Christmas which culminated in a threat from Burnside that he would replace Trimble as leader and would move "heaven and earth" to end Trimble's leadership of the Unionist party.

3. According to Allen, Burnside introduced his motion on the RUC at the UUC meeting purely to embarrass Trimble. Privately, Trimble believes that Burnside will constantly work against him, if elected as MP for South Antrim.

4. Allen said that Burnside is a very nasty person who is good on television and can sound credible and reasonable but at the back of it all, he is essentially an old fashioned bigot.

5. On the political side, Burnside will try and portray himself as a moderate, capable of appealing to both sides of the party. He will initially try and keep a foot in both camps but at crunch time, Burnside will side with the

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No people and against Trimble.

6. Allen said that Burnside, who has acted as Director of the party's Unionist Information Office in London, had promised the party that he could raise £1m for in Britain to pay for the office's operation. He failed dismally and the London office has now, more or less, ceased to function. Burnside presented the party with a bill for £30,000 for his services to the office, a bill which will never be paid.

7. In conclusion, Allen felt the leadership will be very unhappy with last night's result.

8. The results of the last Westminister election in South Antrim are attached, along with the Assembly result from the same constituency. A comparison of pro and anti Agreement support among Unionists in South Antrim is also included.

Ray Bassett
Anglo-Irish Division
20 June 2000

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South Antrim

Westminster ('97)		
Forsythe UUP	23,108	57.5%
McClelland SDLP	6,497	16.2%
Ford APNI	4,668	11.2%
Smyth PUP	3,490	8.7%
Cushnahan SF	2,229	5.5%
Briggs NLP	203	0.5%

Assembly ('98)		
UUP	13,175	30.0%*
DUP	8,853	20.1%
SDLP	7,783	17.7%
UKUP	4,360	9.9%
APNI	3,778	8.6%
SF	3,226	7.3%
PUP	1,546	3.5%
NIWC	1,108	2.5%
Lab	137	0.3%
NLP	28	0.1%

*In the Assembly elections, the UUP ran three candidates, two pro-Agreement (Jim Wilson and Duncan Shipley-Dalton) and one anti-Agreement (John Hunter).

The distribution of pro and anti Agreement votes were as follows among Unionist voters

Pro-Agreement	
10,838	UUP
1,546	PUP
Total	12,384

Anti-Agreement	
2,337	UUP
8,850	DUP
4,360	UKUP
Total	15,547

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