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SPEECH BY RT. HON. Wm. CRAIG, M.P., MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, AT
8.00 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 1968, SPEAKING TO THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THE LARNE CONSTITUENCY UNIONIST ASSOCIATION

A great deal of nonsense about Northern Ireland is being talked today, some of it coming from people who hold responsible positions and should know better.

A major onslaught has been launched against the Unionist Party - the only political party with policies satisfying the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland on the constitutional issue and the social economic progress of the community. This onslaught is really an onslaught against the Constitution using all sorts of people and issues and the immediate objective is public unrest and disorder supporting a massive smear propaganda campaign. It is a situation which could escalate rapidly into a very ugly and dangerous situation which could hurt most of all the minority elements in the community putting the clock back to the disadvantages of the whole community. Those who lend support to this campaign or give any credence to it should recognise now before it is too late the folly of their actions.

Unionists must play it cool and use all their influence to prevent an escalation towards crisis. They can rest assured that those matters within the competence of the Northern Ireland Parliament and Government will be handled by the Northern Ireland Parliament and Government in the best interests of Northern Ireland and according to the wishes of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. They can also rest assured that the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and the Leadership of the Unionist Party will be a person who enjoys the confidence of the Unionist Party and is considered to be the best person to promote Unionist Policy. The Unionist Party will conduct its own affairs without any outside interference. From time to time any leadership is subject to criticism and challenge. Some aspects of Captain O'Neill's leadership have been challenged in the past and on challenge his leadership has been confirmed. Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind - there is no power struggle within the Unionist Party. The country needs good team-work and this Government is intent on being a good team.