

CONFIDENTIAL

In mid-October, 1971, a group of "dissident" Unionists met in Portadown and formed a fourteen man Steering committee headed by William CRAIG, M.P., in order to draft policies in opposition to policy changes proposed by the Government.

In addition, the Committee decided that it would draw up its policy lines to form an organisation to represent constituency associations which supported it, and would aim to ensure that the constituency associations' opinions became the opinions of the Unionist Party.

The aims of the organisation would be to maintain Northern Ireland's Constitution; restore the powers taken away from Stormont in the field of internal security and "the disastrous policies over the last few years".

A further meeting of this organisation was held in Belfast at the end of October, 1971, at which organised withdrawal from the Unionist Party was advocated and it was suggested that the name Ulster Unionist Vanguard be given to the new organisation.

In mid-November, 1971, Larne Unionist Constituency Association voted to affiliate with the "Ulster Vanguard" and Carrick Divisional Unionist Association voted unanimously to affiliate to the Ulster Unionist Vanguard and appointed ten delegates to attend the "inaugural meeting in Portadown on 20th November, 1971".

At the inaugural meeting of Ulster Unionist Vanguard in Portadown on 20th November, 1971, William CRAIG, M.P., addressed the audience of approximately one hundred persons on the meaning of the Green Paper introduced in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister.

Captain Austin ARDILL considered that the organisation should co-ordinate the activities of all Loyalist groups including the recently formed Loyalist Association of Workers at Harland & Wolff, Belfast.

The organising Committee comprised the following persons: -

William CRAIG, M.P.
Captain Austin ARDILL
Rev. Martin SMYTH
George ALLPORT
Robert HENDERSON
Stanley MORGAN

Meetings were arranged early in January, 1972, with various organisations

.../Continued.

including the Loyalist Association of Workers; the Ulster Defence Association; the Ulster Special Constabulary Association and the Ulster Loyalist Association. It was the intention that a central council be formed when the position was clear as to the affiliation of these organisations to Ulster Unionist Vanguard.

Early in February, 1972, a central council of the organisation was formed under the joint presidency of William CRAIG, M.P. and William HULL, Chairman of the Loyalist Association of Workers.

The representatives on the central council were as follows: -

Rev. Martin SMYTH (Grand Master of Belfast & District Grand Orange Lodge)
Rev. Robert DICKINSON (Grand Master of Derry Grand Orange Lodge).
Mr. Alfred LEE (Grand Master of Co. Derry Grand Orange Lodge).
Mr. John BROWN (Grand Master of Co. Antrim Grand Orange Lodge).
Mr. James MOLYNEAUX, M.P. (Grand Master of the Royal Black Preceptory).
Captain Austin ARDILL (Chairman of the Ulster Loyalist Association).
Mr. Hugh PETRIE (Loyalist Association of Workers).
Mr. George GREEN (Ulster Special Constabulary Association).
Mr. Brian SMYTH (Ulster Unionist Association).

Mr. William CRAIG, M.P., in an announcement to the Press stated that the organisation would strive to "re-organise and make the Unionist Party more democratic and representative of rank and file Unionists". "Vanguard", he said, "is an organisation which must keep within the law".

At this time the movement announced that a number of rallies would be held at different centres each Saturday commencing on 12th February culminating in a final demonstration in Belfast on Saturday, 18th March, 1972.

The Rallies were held as follows: -

- (1) Lisburn, Co. Antrim on 12th February, 1972.
Attendance approximately 2,000.
- (2) Bangor, Co. Down on 19th February, 1972.
Attendance approximately 2,000.
- (3) Rathfriland, Co. Down, on 19th February, 1972.
Attendance approximately 1,750.
- (4) Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, on 26th February, 1972.
Attendance approximately 3,000.
- (5) Ballymena, Co. Antrim, on 4th March, 1972.
Attendance approximately 7,000.
- (6) Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, on 4th March, 1972.
Attendance approximately 6,000.
- (7) Portadown, Co. Armagh, on 11th March, 1972.
Attendance approximately 10,000.
- (8) Omagh, Co. Tyrone, on 11th March, 1972.
Attendance approximately 1,500.
- (9) Ormeau Park, Belfast, on 18th March, 1972.
Attendance approximately 50,000.

.../Continued.

- 3 -

Copies of literature distributed on behalf of the organisation at the Rallies are attached: -

- (a) Declaration of Intent and Covenant to Act.
- (b) Ulster Vanguard Stands For.

Both documents outline the policies of the organisation and at each Rally a vote was taken of those present with regard to same by a show of hands.

A notable feature at the Rallies outlined was the inspection of persons drawn up in ranks. This militaristic pose was more notable at the final Rally in Belfast where a guard of honour was formed by members of the U.S.C. association; the Colours of the old U.V.F were paraded; women in uniform type clothing were drawn up in ranks and a contingent from the Oldpark Defence Association paraded in dark glasses and desert-hats, etc.

throughout
This organisation has drawn considerable support from Northern Ireland and is currently acting as an "umbrella" for members of "loyalist" organisations. The leadership is currently involved in public controversy with the leadership of the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party and a test of strength may well emerge between these two factions within the right wing element.

23 MAR 1972