

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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NORTHERN IRELAND  
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

20 October 1982

## Northern Ireland Assembly Elections, 20 October 1982

This is a preliminary analysis of the results of the election for the Northern Ireland Assembly which took place on Wednesday, 20 October 1982.

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### 1. Introduction

Elections for the 78 seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly took place on 20 October 1982. This was the third election for a representative body held under the Single Transferable Vote system in the 12 Westminster constituencies. There were some changes in the distribution of seats between the constituencies from the previous elections in 1973 and 1975. The effect of these were to reduce representation in Belfast and to increase the number of seats in Antrim and Down. This analysis is based on original data provided by the BBC, UTV and the newspapers.

### 2. The Campaign

The Assembly Elections campaign was among the dullest and most lacklustre for years. Of all the parties contesting the election only Alliance and the Workers Party wholeheartedly supported the rolling devolution proposals of

the Secretary of State. These proposals contained in the new Northern Ireland Act, 1982, provide for a return of power to the Assembly provided that there is cross-community support, a concept which is variously defined as 70% of the assembly members or as including the SDLP. The Assembly is also to have committees which will monitor the work of the Northern Ireland Departments. To a more limited degree the Prior proposals were supported by the Democratic Unionists who sought the return of a devolved government based on a majority rule executive with mixed representation in Assembly committees. The Official Unionists, divided between devolutionists and integrationists, were skeptical of the proposals from the start and opposed them to some degree at Westminster. They believed it would not be possible to achieve the kind of cross-community support necessary to make the Assembly work. The SDLP were unhappy with the lack of a suitable Irish dimension in the proposals and were initially divided as to what election strategy to adopt. In the event the party decided to contest the elections but to boycott the Assembly. An attempt by the IIP to get a united nationalist boycott of both the election and the Assembly failed and Provisional Sinn Fein decided to contest the elections on a "no collaboration" policy. The campaign never really developed beyond a reiteration of party attitudes to the assembly. In party broadcasts and election programmes the discussions centred primarily on the workability of the new Assembly and very little of social and economic significance was discussed despite the fact that unemployment is in excess of 22%. The most vocal political figure in the election was the Secretary of State Mr. James Prior who made references to the establishment of the Parliamentary tier of the Anglo-Irish Council and the necessity for executive power sharing to include the SDLP. These statements failed to elicit any change in the SDLP position. The only opinion poll taken showed OUP with 30% of the vote, DUP with 15%, Alliance 19%, SDLP 17% Sinn Fein 3%, and WP 4%.

more than that

No.

### 3. Nominations

Nominations closed on 28 September with a total of 184 candidates seeking election to the 78 seats. This number was 19 higher than in the 1975 Convention Elections and 35 less than in the 1973 Assembly Elections. The OUP fielded 42 candidates while the DUP put up 35 and the UUUP 13. On the nationalist side 28 SDLP candidates contested along with 12 each from Provisional Sinn Fein and the Workers Party. Alliance fielded 20 candidates and the balance was made up of independent loyalists, republicans and a couple of ecologists.

### 4. Turnout

The overall turnout at 60% was a sluggish electoral response to the new initiative. In some constituencies, particularly safer unionist districts, the response was notably weaker.

In South Antrim a little over half the electorate went to the polls. On the other hand in the West Belfast 62% voted, 2% more than in the Westminster election of 1979 while in Fermanagh and South Tyrone over 85% voted.

#### 5. Party Candidates Success Rate

The party candidates success rate is determined by the number of seats obtained relative to the number of candidates fielded. For each party the story was as follows -

- 61.9% of OUP candidates were elected to the Assembly
- 60.0% of DUP candidates were successful
- 50.0% of Alliance candidates won seats
- 46.4% of SDLP hopefuls succeeded
- 41.7% of Sinn Fein contestants gained seats

Among other groups the success rate was not so good. Both the UUUP and the Workers Party failed to get any of their candidates elected but the Ulster Popular Unionist Party with 1 seat got half their runners elected. The Party Candidates success rate is a useful indicator of how effective a party is at placing candidates to maintain maximum advantage in terms of seats. However, it has limitations in that parties such as Alliance in Fermanagh South Tyrone and the SDLP in North Down may run candidates even though they have no hope of winning merely to increase the party's total vote. Other factors such as the number of and geographical spread of candidates, and the division of votes between them, in individual constituencies play a significant part in determining the number of seats gained by parties in P.R. elections.

#### 6. Results of the Assembly Election (See Table (i))

Among the most significant results of the election were the maintenance by the Official Unionists of their position as the largest party in Northern Ireland. OUP took 29.7% of first preference votes and secured 26 seats which represents a third of the membership of the Assembly. The Democratic Unionists had to be content with second place both in the election and within the Unionist community. Dr. Paisley's party secured 23% of the first preference vote and 21 successes which represents 26.9% of the seats. Both OUP and DUP have expanded in size since the Convention Elections, mainly at the expense of smaller groups such as Vanguard, U.P.N.I. and U.U.U.P. In 1975 the Official Unionists got 25.4% of the first preference vote and 19 seats constituting 24.3% of representation. On this occasion they secured a bonus in terms of seats above their proportional entitlement of 3.6%. For the DUP the heady expansion of the late 1970's and of last year's local elections has halted. The party is now much larger than at

the time of the Convention when it secured 14.7% of the vote and 12 (15.4%) of the seats. This time the party got an even larger bonus of seats to votes of 3.9%. These bonuses can be explained by transfers from smaller unionists parties to the major groupings.

For Alliance who received 9.3% of first preferences the result was gratifying in terms of seats of which they received 10 (12.8%) giving them a seats to votes bonus of 3.5%, very high for a party of their size. Their successes were due to receipt of a significant number of transfers particularly in the latter stages of the counts when candidates from either side of the sectarian divide were faced with the choice between Alliance and a contender from the opposite end of the spectrum. For example, in West Belfast Sinn Fein voters had to choose between an OUP, and DUP and an Alliance candidate for the last two seats. In North Belfast Unionists voters had to choose between Sinn Fein, the SDLP and Alliance for the last two seats. In each case Alliance benefitted and the DUP and Sinn Fein lost out. In 1975 Alliance got 9.8% of the vote while receiving 8 (or 10.2%) of the seats.

On the nationalist side the major statistic of importance is the 10.2% of first preferences gained by Sinn Fein. This translated into 5 seats or 6.4% of the membership of the Assembly. Had the party's vote been better spread they would probably have gained additional seats in West Belfast and Fermanagh-South Tyrone. The dramatic effect of their successes was better emphasised by the poll topping performances of Gerry Adams and Owen Carron, M.P. Their vote would appear to have come from the SDLP to only a limited extent. In 1975 SDLP got 23.7% of the vote and 17 (21.8%) of the seats while this time they received 18.8% of first preferences and 14 (17.9%) of seats. The Sinn Fein vote was a new vote in that it was previously abstentionist or only came out in certain Westminster elections such as for candidates like Frank Maguire or Bernadette Devlin. Sinn Fein did take at least one seat that would otherwise have gone to the SDLP, that in Derry. However, given the SDLP's performance in the Convention elections it is hard to see where else they were deprived except, perhaps, in Fermanagh-South Tyrone. The significance of Sinn Fein's victory lies in two statistics, one, that it represents 30% of Catholic voters and two, that in areas where Sinn Fein and the SDLP faced each other the Provisionals got two votes for every three received by the SDLP.

For the Workers Party getting 2.7% of the vote was satisfactory enough but nowhere did they look like gaining a seat. In parts of Belfast they polled respectably and this may create some kind of future base for the party. For all other parties the results were despairing. The UUUP was wiped out and UPUP exists only in the embodiment of its leader Jim Kilfedder, M.P. Others apart from Frank Miller did not figure, statistically at least.

7. Assessment of the Results (General)

On the unionist side it is clear that this election has been a success for the Official Unionists whose vote is up 3% on last year. They have maintained their position as the main but not the sole unionist voice. It is not clear what this means for the Assembly as the official unionists are divided between pro-devolutionists such as Harold McCusker on the one hand and pro-integrationists like James Molyneaux on the other. In addition, four members of the moderate Union Group have been elected as Official Unionists including Robert McCartney Q.C. in North Down. While Molyneaux maintains his scepticism about the Assembly McCusker and others are keen to get it working.

For the Democratic Unionists the election result is mixed. It appears that the party's growth has stopped at least for the present. The DUP vote is down 3% on its optimum performance in last year's local elections. Dr. Paisley has failed to take the leadership of the unionist community but unlike Molyneaux he leads a united party in favour of majority rule devolved government and his party is assured of a major role in the Assembly.

The Alliance Party can be pleased to have held their ground in terms of votes and to have made 2 seat gains which is a tribute to the hard work of their candidates and members. Their assembly members are the only ones wholly committed to making the Prior proposals work.

For the SDLP the election is a shock but not a disaster. This election has given notice that there is (and always has been) a section of the Catholic electorate which is basically republican. In the mid 1970's the SDLP was able to capture a section of this vote because it was able to offer some progress to the Catholic Community in the form of power-sharing and a Council of Ireland. On this occasion the Assembly offered no such promise to Catholics and the SDLP were deprived of presenting some hope of constitutional progress to their voters. As a result those who wished to boycott the Assembly voted for the true boycotters - Sinn Fein and many who had previously abstained swelled that support. The position in which the SDLP now finds itself can be blamed on the British Government, Loyalist politicians and on the party itself. The British Government did not provide a sufficient incentive to ensure SDLP participation which damaged faith in the constitutional process. Loyalist politicians bear a heavy burden of responsibility for continuing intransigence which has prevented any political development in Northern Ireland and made SDLP aims of partnership in Government seem unrealistic to electors. Despite these factors it has been argued that the SDLP failed to provide Catholic voters with a fully constitutional choice. Unlike Sinn Fein the SDLP could offer only a boycott of the new Assembly without any other line of action which would appeal to Catholic voters. On one side Alliance offered participation while Sinn Fein rejected British rule and both were rewarded by a section of Catholic electors for their respective stances. Having said all that, the SDLP

*What about  
Wearnes  
in  
organisation  
on the  
ground  
POT  
new movement &  
young people etc?*

is still the largest Catholic party with support of 57% of that Community. What it does with that support is vital to its survival. It will now find it very difficult to go into the Assembly and the barren ground of boycott offers the party little hope. A third way, perhaps involving an Anglo-Irish dimension now becomes crucial if the party is to have a role in Northern Ireland.

For Sinn Fein the result is a vindication of their decision to contest the election. Although they have ended up with less seats than their entitlement their spectacular poll-topping victories in West Belfast and Fermanagh-South Tyrone will long be remembered. The emergence of Sinn Fein may radicalise catholic politics in the North and make an internal settlement even less likely. The party will boycott the Assembly but may be willing, if asked, to have talks with the Secretary of State.

#### 8. Party Cohesion

An addendum containing a fuller analysis of this aspect of the Count will be prepared in due course. Initial television reports suggested that the DUP transferred 85% to other DUP candidates while Official Unionists transferred 76% to other OUP candidates. According to Dr. Sidney Elliot only 0.5% of votes transfer from one bloc to the other. Most unionists vote for other Unionists, some transfer to Alliance but virtually none vote for SDLP or other nationalist parties. A similar story exists on the nationalist side though with Alliance doing better than Sinn Fein in some instances from SDLP transfers. It should be stressed that figures on party cohesion are really only valid where there is a contender of the same party continuing in the election.

#### 9. Constituency Analysis

<u>Party</u>	<u>North Antrim (8 Seats)</u>		<u>1975 : 7 Seats</u>		
	<u>% 1st Preference</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	45.8	4	50.0	52.2	3
OUP	28.8	2	25.0	5.4	-
APNI	9.3	1	12.5	9.5	1
SDLP	14.2	1	12.5	17.0	1
VUP/UUUP	.8	-	-	8.1	2
UPNI	1.1	-	-	7.3	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-

Total Unionists Vote = 75.4%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 14.2%  
 Total Centre Vote = 9.3%  
 Others = 1.1%

The result in this constituency was very much as predicted with a good demonstration of how to operate P.R. given by the Rev. Ian Paisley and his team. Sean Neeson of Alliance and Sean Farren of the SDLP, the parties respective chairmen secured seats as did Roy Beggs (OUP) the former DUP Mayor of Larne who incurred the wrath of paisleyites by leading a Council delegation to Dun Laoghaire on the borough's Golden Jubilee,

<u>South Antrim</u> (10 Seats)			1975 : (8 Seats)		
<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	27.1	3	30	25.1	2
OUP	41.1	4	40	23.7	1
APNI	11.6	2	20	12.4	1
SDLP	10.5	1	10	12.6	1
WP	2.5	-	-	1.0	-
VUP/UUUP	0.5	-	-	10.8	2
UPNI	-	-	-	14.0	1
Others	6.7	-	-	0.3	-

Total Unionist Vote = 68.7%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 13.0%  
 Total Centre Vote = 11.6%  
 Others (mainly Unionists) 6.7%

The Official Unionists were unfortunate to get only 4 seats as their Press Officer Frank Miller was outdone by Seamus Close of Alliance for the last seat by less than 150 votes. The change in the OUP position since 1975 is quite marked and this can be accounted for by the absorption of UPNI and VUP support as well as the candidature of James Molyneaux, M.P., the party leader. The DUP position has only marginally improved since 1975 but to get 3 seats to the OUPs 4 must be considered a satisfactory result. For alliance to get 2 seats with little over one quota was not just a matter of having the vote well spread between the candidates but was the result of receiving unionist and SDLP transfers.

<u>Belfast North</u> (5 Seats)			1975 :(6 Seats)		
<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preference</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	21.1	1	20	9.5	1
OUP	25.6	1	20	27.1	2
APNI	7.1	1	20	6.2	
SDLP	12.8	1	20	23.0	1
SF	11.3	-	-	-	-
WP	7.0	-	-	1.3	-
UUP/UUUC	2.4	-	-	4.3	-
UPNI	-	-	-	8.2	1
Others	12.8	1	20	14.2	1 (Frank Miller)

Total Unionist Vote = 61.1%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 31.9%  
 Total Centre Vote = 7.1%

This election count was one of the more confused but also exciting contests. John Carson, former MP and Lord Mayor dominated for the Official Unionists and Frank Miller was re-elected as an Independent Unionist. Pascal O'Hare managed to hold onto the SDLP seat previously held by Gerry Fitt, M.P. despite a strong Sinn Fein challenge. Indeed, it was the contest between Joe Austin of Sinn Fein and the Alliance Party's new standard bearer Paul Maguire which provided the climax to the Count. On the final count a vital 280 vote surplus transfer from Frank Miller to Paul Maguire ensured an Alliance victory by a margin of 184. Since 1975 the DUP have improved their performance here leading to the capture of the Parliamentary seat three years ago but this progress has now halted and were the OUP to run Carson at the next Westminster election he would most likely win.

Party	<u>Belfast South (5 Seats)</u>		1975 : (6 Seats)		
	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	15.7	1	20	8.0	1
OUP	44.0	3	60	40.3	2
APNI	22.8	1	20	21.9	2
SDLP	13.5	-	-	6.4	
WP	2.4	-	-	-	-
VUP/UUUP	0.8	-	-	9.0	1
UPNI	-	-	-	11.0	-
Others	0.8	-	-	3.3 (NILP)	-

This strong Official Unionist area provided the party with an unexpected third seat for Jim Kirkpatrick who joined his colleagues Rev. Martin Smyth, M.P and Edgar Graham. Alliance on the basis of their bye-election performance had been expected to get two seats but owing to the bad spread of votes between David Cook and Basil Glass the latter failed to overtake a resurgent SDLP candidate in the form of Ben Caraher. As a result Glass was eliminated ensuring Kirkpatrick's election.

East Belfast (6 Seats)

1975 : (6 Seats)

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	40.2	2	33.3	15.0	1
OUP	25.5	2	33.3	10.4	-
APNI	23.0	2	33.3	15.6	1
SDLP	2.2	-	-	2.5	-
WP	1.7	-	-	-	-
VUP/UUUP	7.4	-	-	33.1	2
UPNI	-	-	-	11.8	1
NILP/Others	-	-	-	11.6	1 (NILP)

Total Unionist Vote = 73.1%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 3.9%  
 Total Centre Vote = 23.0%

Had it not been for Peter Robinson, M.P. grabbing virtually all of the DUP vote for himself Dr. Paisley would have gained an additional seat. In the event, Alliance benefitted in the form of a second seat for Councillor Addie Morrow. Jeremy Burchill was among the successful for the Official Unionists. In the event of a future general election Peter Robinson's seat looks to be safe and Oliver Napier's excellent performance of 1979 (29.3%) looks unrepeatable. For Bill Craig this election was the second rejection by the East Belfast electorate in three and half years.

West Belfast (4 Seats)

1975 : (6 Seats)

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	12.8	-	-	5.5	-
OUP	13.1	1	25	30.1	2
APNI	8.0	1	25	9.2	1
SDLP	24.4	1	25	37.9	2
SF	30.1	1	25	-	-
WP	7.3	-	-	3.8	-
Others	4.1	-	-	13.5	1 (IND.U)

Total Unionist Vote = 29.6%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 62.4%  
 Total Centre Vote = 8.0%

This was the scene of the first and most spectacular election to the Assembly, that of Sinn Fein Vice President Gerry Adams. It had been expected that Sinn Fein would win a seat but the size and manner of their victory was not forecast. The SDLP had been expected to take two seats but in the event the hardworking Alliance Councillor Will Glendinning won the last seat just ahead of the DUPs Billy Dickson with the aid of Provisional Sinn Fein transfers. There was an outside chance of two Sinn Fein seats but the distribution of first preference votes between Adams and Mackey was not suitable for this to be achieved. Thomas Passmore (OUP) of the Orange Order pipped the DUP for the loyalist seat. At any future Westminster election this seat looks likely to return Gerry Adams to Parliament.

North Down (8 Seats)

1975 : (7 Seats)

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	23.3	2	25.0	5.1	1
OUP	27.4	3	37.5	52.2*	2
APNI	17.0	2	25.0	17.5	2
SDLP	4.6	-	-	6.9	-
UPUP	27.3*	1	12.5	-	-
UPNI	-	-	-	10.5	1
UUP/UUUP	0.3	-	-	7.6	1

\* Includes Kilfedder

Total Unionist Vote = 78.4%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 4.6%  
 Total Centre Vote = 17.0%

The erratic factor in this constituency is Mr. James Kilfedder, the Leitrim born MP for the area. In 1975 he got three quotas and the official Unionists got two seats. This time he got two quotas and his Popular Unionist party received only 1 seat. A good result here for OUP with three seats including the prominent unionist barrister Robert McCartney Q.C. The Alliance vote has not improved since 1975 but the party were able to keep their two seats with the aid of SDLP transfers. The DUP have made significant inroads into this prosperous suburban and rural constituency.

South Down (7 Seats)

1975 : (7 Seats)

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	19.2	2	28.6	6.2	-
OUP	31.1	2	28.6	20.1	2
APNI	6.2	-	-	5.1	-
SDLP	34.9	3	42.8	38.9	3
SF	5.7	-	-	-	-
WP	2.8	-	-	2.8	-
VUP/UUUP	-	-	-	14.6	1
UPNI	-	-	-	11.6	1
Others	-	-	-	-	-

Total Unionist Vote = 50.3%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 43.4%  
 Total Centre Vote = 6.2%

This is the SDLPs best constituency, not alone did the party hold their three seats but they also took the first three places on the poll and successfully kept Sinn Fein down to a paltry 5.7%. The DUP were fortunate to get two seats mainly because their well balanced ticket of Newry and Mourne Council Chairman George Graham and Jim Wells attracted sufficient OUP transfers. This used to be a very strong Official Unionist constituency but with the rise of the DUP there could be a challenge to Enoch Powell's stewardship of the Parliamentary seat. The Alliance party's Patrick Forde can be pleased with his performance, coming within 800 votes of a seat on the last count.

Armagh (7 Seats)

1975 : (7 Seats)

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	10.8	1	14.3	13.1	1
OUP	39.9	3	42.8	23.0	2
APNI	2.9	-	-	5.1	-
SDLP	25.2	2	28.6	28.7	2
SF	13.3	1	14.3	-	-
WP	4.7	-	-	6.3	-
VUP/UUUP	3.3	-	-	19.2	2
UPNI	-	-	-	4.7	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-

Total Unionist Vote = 54.0%  
 Total Nationalist Vote = 43.1%  
 Total Centre Vote = 2.9%

This result was among the more predictable of the election. The Official Unionists led by Harold McCusker retained their dominance of the area getting three of the seats. For the SDLP the result was bad but not unexpected. In the 1979 General Election Seamus Mallon got 36% compared with 25.2% for SDLP on this occasion. As expected, Sinn Fein in the person of J.B. McAllister got a seat but their performance was less spectacular than elsewhere. Should Harold McCusker's bid to unseat Seamus Mallon be successful this constituency will have a bye-election which the OUP will probably win.

Derry (7 Seats)

1975 : (7 Seats)

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	21.8	2	28.6	5.5	1
OUP	26.0	2	28.6	26.9	2
APNI	5.7	-	-	7.6	-
SDLP	31.5	2	28.6	37.1	3
SF	13.6	1	14.3	-	-
WP	1.5	-	-	2.4	-
VUP/UUUP	-	-	-	15.8	1
UPNI	-	-	-	4.1	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-

Total Unionist Vote = 47.8%  
 Total Nationalist Vote 46.5%  
 Total Centre Vote = 5.7%

Although the SDLP narrowly lost a seat here the party's performance was relatively good with a fine poll topping performance by John Hume who was followed by Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness. For Alliance the absence of Ivor Canavan on this occasion was a setback and the party vote fell. The OUP had to share the four loyalist seats with the DUP. The interesting result here is the size of the "nationalist vote" which at 46.5% is only 1.3% below the combined loyalists. It is evident that there will soon be a nationalist majority in Co. Derry.

Mid Ulster (6 Seats)

1975 : 6 Seats

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	23.3	2	33.3	14.6	1
OUP	15.6	1	16.7	24.1	2
APNI	4.6	-	-	5.9	-
SDLP	24.9	2	33.3	35.0	2
SF	20.5	1	16.7	-	-
WP	3.3	-	-	6.4	-
VUP/UUUP	7.7	-	-	9.9	1
UPNI	-	-	-	4.0	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-

Total Unionist Vote = 46.6%

Total Nationalist Vote = 48.8%

Total Centre Vote = 4.6%

This was one of two constituencies (the other being Armagh) where the SDLP lost a seat to the U.U.U.C. in 1975 which has now been picked up by Sinn Fein. In this case the Sinn Fein victor was their T.V. performer Danny Morrison who was given a close run by party colleague Benedict McElwee, brother of one of the hunger strikers. For the SDLP the result was not too bad considering that Paddy Duffy did not contest the seat. The U.U.U.P. was eliminated altogether here and the party's sitting M.P. John Dunlop lost his deposit. Country gospel singer the Rev. William McCrea (DUP) was bound for glory both by topping the poll and by his party gaining two seats.

Fermanagh-South Tyrone (5 Seats)

1975 : 5 Seats

<u>Party</u>	<u>% 1st Preferences</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>% of Seats Obtained</u>	<u>% Vote</u>	<u>Seats</u>
DUP	12.3	1	20	6.4	-
OUP	31.4	2	40	30.3	2
APNI	2.0	-	-	2.8	-
SDLP	20.3	1	20	40.1	2
SF	28.3	1	20	-	-
WP	2.4	-	-	2.8	-
VUP/UUUP	3.4	-	-	15.2	1
UPNI	-	-	-	2.3	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-

Total Unionist Vote = 47.1%

Total Nationalist Vote = 50.9%

Total Centre Vote = 2.0%

This result was a significant victory for Sinn Fein who have overtaken the SDLP here. However, Owen Carron's poll topping spectacular with one and a half quotas may have damaged Sinn Fein's chances of a second seat for Francis Molloy who narrowly lost out to the Rev. Ivan Foster of the DUP who is a third Force commander. For the SDLP this was not a good result, their vote has halved since 1975. The Official Unionists have maintained their dominance while the DUP have scored at the expense of UUUP leader Ernest Baird.

*Gerard F. Torsney*

Gerard Torsney

Anglo-Irish Section

1 November 1982