



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/10/47
Creation Dates:	7 April 1987
Extent and medium:	3 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

cc: Tavanli
 Secretary
 A-1
 Mr. Nally
 B&K

S20876

lyk ✓

Interview with Danny Morrison, Talkback, Radio Ulster,
7 April 1987

Chapé Louder

Interviewer: What would you make of the fact that while your Vice President, Martin McGuinness, was calling for Cardinal O Fiaich to intervene in the funeral row, he was in fact visiting some of your leading members in Portlaoise Prison.

Morrison: Well, it's obvious ... I don't think you can make any point out of that at all. I think that by now both the Cardinal and Cahal Daly ... I take the point that Fr. Faul is making that he threw the responsibility back on to Cahal Daly, that it is their concern and that the family have been deserted. We've got more succour out of a priest from Clonard Monastery and a Methodist Minister this morning than we have from the leadership of the Catholic Church. There is nobody about the house. The RUC are here in double strength than they were yesterday. There has been people injured and it looks like the funeral cannot proceed in peace or dignity.

Interviewer: What effect is all of this having on Lawrence Marley's family?

Morrison: Well, Kate Marley is extremely distressed and that's understandable, but she's a very, very strong woman and her concern is that nobody is injured. You see ... what you have to understand ... all the family wants is a berth around the cortege where there will be space between the mourners and the RUC.

Interviewer: Is there going to be any paramilitary display at the funeral?

Morrison: Everybody knows that the RUC...and the RUC knows, that the night before last the IRA fired their volley and paid their tribute to Lawrence Marley, so that is over and done with.

Interviewer: So there will be no shots fired today or tomorrow ... (interruption)

Morrison: Everybody knows that. The RUC knows that. So why the heavy presence.

Interviewer: What is your reaction to the non-appearance and apparent non-intervention of Bishop Cahal Daly?

Morrison: I think that says volumes for the concern that the Bishop has or lack of concern for Larry Marley's family, for his widow and the children. I mean, Bishop Cahal Daly is quite articulate, his position on the republican movement is quite clear, his position on the RUC is now quite clear. He must be supporting what's going on or else he would be down here and trying to sort out the problem. I mean you have a situation in Magilligan where loyalist politicians and clerics are queuing up on behalf of the loyalist prisoners to try and resolve the situation, A Free Presbyterian Minister is in the jail and apparently can come out if he so wishes but he's there giving guidance to the prisoners there. On this side of the community there isn't a priest to be seen and it's a disgrace.

Interviewer: Yesterday when the funeral was postponed, your Vice President, Martin McGuinness, made reference to the fact that the church had not, I'm paraphrasing now, had not woken up to the fact that the majority of Catholics, especially in Cahal Daly's diocese, supported the republican movement and he said "what kind of Catholic church do you want, one that's peopled by SDLP and Alliance supporters?" Now is that the view that you share?

Morrison: Well, what Martin McGuinness was referring to was that in the last Westminster elections Sinn Fein outpolled the SDLP in the four constituencies of Belfast. Now what we're saying is the Bishop of Down and Connor, which takes in the Belfast area, should be making clear his decision on the violence, the RUC violence in Ardoyne today and yesterday and he

- 3 -

should be suggesting, I mean he suggests, he lectures the IRA and the Republican movement to give up. Now that's his position on the IRA. So we know his position on that. What is his position on the RUC? What is his position to Tom King, what is his position to Mrs. Thatcher. I mean, are the RUC going to allow that funeral to go ahead or not?

Interviewer: Have you made any direct contact today with Bishop Daly's office?

Morrison: We phoned the Bishop's secretary, we phoned the house. Now the secretary says that he will be in contact with the Bishop late this afternoon so hopefully something will happen there, but I mean I think you would have to be extremely naive to think that Bishop Cahal Daly didn't know that a quarter of a mile from his house in Sommerton road, across the road in Ardoyne, there isn't a siege going on, - a siege of a wake house and people have been injured.

Interviewer: You're saying that the Bishop is keeping his head down.

Morrison: The Bishop is keeping his head down, yes.