



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/94/42

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.

On the programme "Good Morning Ulster", both John Taylor of the U and Ian Paisley of the DUP responded to John Hume's remarks on the "Inside Politics" programme over the weekend. Taylor said that most people, including nationalists, would be amazed that the "leader of the nationalist party" was now arguing against power-sharing despite having advocated it for 20 years. He said this is the most negative contribution yet from John Hume. He called on Mr Hume to realise that his party only enjoys 20% support and that their responsibility is not to dictate terms but to work with unionists in partnership for an agreed settlement in the North. He called on nationalists to show some "self respect" and to help to make democracy work. He cited the example of ten local Councils on which there is partnership at the moment and added that unionists have the objective of partnership with nationalists and close links with Dublin on matters of mutual concern. He thought Mr Hume's remarks were "bringing the shutters down" on the Talks and he also cited the Taoiseach's weekend statement that Articles 2 and 3 were "not for sale" and the Irish Government's insistence on reactivating the workings of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

He said the reasons the Articles only became a major issue in the last three years was because of the judgement in the McGimpsey case which stated that they were a constitutional imperative for all Irish politicians in any negotiation with Northern politicians. Mr Taylor also attacked Mr Hume's party's suggestion regarding Commissioners to run Northern Ireland on an EC model. He stated that Mr Hume had lost confidence in himself and in the nationalist community. He stated that with the SDLP model there would be only two Councillors from the six from the Unionists party. He stated that Northern Ireland can only proceed if it not governed by minorities or outsiders.

Mr Paisley described Mr Hume's remarks as "old soup in a new plate". He kept repeating that the nationalist position is now a "united Ireland or nothing". He said that the model proposed by Mr Hume was not analogous to that in the US. He said that there were no people from outside countries appointed to the Cabinet in the US. He said that Mr Hume's proposals would not be democratic in that an appointed Cabinet, including outsiders, would have total control and that the Dublin appointed member would have a veto on all decisions. He said the suggestion was not a new one, having already been suggested by the Forum for a New Ireland. Asked about nationalist links with Dublin he affirmed that Northern Ireland is part of the UK and that that was the basis on which his party entered the Talks. He said that no foreign interference would be allowed and that no nationalist links with Dublin that would damage the position of Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom would be tolerated by his party. He ruled out any form of joint authority. On Articles 2 and 3, he drew attention to the Taoiseach's week-end statement. He stated that the reason his party entered the Talks was to find a new agreement to supersede the Anglo-Irish Agreement. He confirmed that he would not be rejoining the Talks until Articles 2 and 3 were to be "seriously addressed". He said that he had been told by the Chairman that the Articles were not for discussion this week and if that was the case his party would not be taking part in this week's session. In reply to a question, he said that if John Hume's position was an ultimatum the Talks would end within days as had been predicted. He described Articles 2 and 3 as "immoral, illegal and criminal claim". He also stated that history has shown that Ireland has broken every agreement it ever made with Britain.