

SDLP

non-runner

UNDER the leadership of John Hume, the SDLP has been bunted from Tyrone and Fermanagh by the Provos. Henceforward there need be no "safe" constituency left to them if the Provos so wish.

The Provos have already started in the South in Cavan, Monaghan and Louth. There was one in my own constituency, Dublin-Artane. This resulted from Hume's decision, prior to the election of the last Provo, Sands, in Tyrone/Fermanagh. His decision then, by greatly encouraging the hunger-strike, could be said to have cost Sands and later, Doherty, their lives. Another win for the new Provo candidate means more hunger-strikes, death and much more.

The 48 members of the SDLP who refused to fight the election against the Provos, were either frightened, or simply pro-Provo, and so are irrelevant. It was Hume's duty to lead the minority of 44, ideally with himself as candidate, in the fight against the Provos in order to deliberately split the Catholic vote, lose the election and elect the Protestant Unionist parliamentarian, who is not a gunman, to the House of Commons. This election is concerned with an issue of the highest principle, representative democracy of a kind as opposed to those people who believe in the brutal murder of their opponents by guns and bombs.

Hume's failure to fight, and to elect the Provo by default, we all could have done. This certainly finishes Hume as a credible exponent of parliamentary politics anywhere. Alas, it has been true anyway for some time now.

Another win for the Provos in Tyrone/Fermanagh could certainly start the terrible process of a neo-fascist Provo take-over of the control of the whole of Ireland. Hume has failed all those of us who believe that there is a non-violent way to peace between us in Ireland about which he has talked for so long — too long perhaps.

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Title: SDLP Non-Runner [Letter]

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