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Politics

McCord claims hypocrisy over debate on the killing

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

By Chris Thornton

The Assembly debate about Paul Quinn's murder sparked a charge of hypocrisy last night from collusion campaigner Raymond McCord.

Mr McCord asked why MLAs agreed to debate the Quinn killing when a debate about UVF and police collusion in the murders of his son and nine other people was rejected.

Sinn Fein and the SDLP both sought a debate about the Police Ombudsman's Operation Ballast report in January 2007, during the pre-devolution version of the Assembly.

In the report, then Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan linked police informer Mark Haddock to 10 murders, including the killing of Raymond McCord Jnr, and said the agent had been protected from prosecution.

The Sinn Fein bid for a debate on the report was voted down in the Assembly's previous Business Committee.

Mr McCord said he had no difficulty with the Assembly debating the Quinn murder, but questioned why Assembly members had been unable to highlight the collusion report.

"I have every sympathy for the Quinns and I'd like to think they understand where I'm coming from," he said.

"But why is the Assembly debating a murder that didn't even happen in this jurisdiction when they couldn't bring themselves to debate the O'Loan report?" asked Mr McCord.

"To me the big difference is that republicans were involved in the murder of Paul Quinn and they weren't involved in the murder of my son. That smacks of hypocrisy and just beggars belief."

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