

Stalemate 1975–1979

Headings	Notes
MASON'S ECONOMIC POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The North's economy did badly in the 1970s. Unemployment averaged 10%, though in some Catholic areas 50% of the men had no job.• Many multinational firms closed and the violence discouraged others from starting up. In 1974 British government had to take over the shipbuilders Harland and Wolff to stop them closing.• Mason increased government spending and gave generous grants to community groups and local leisure centres. He protected Harland and Wolff and tried to bring in foreign firms.• One apparent success was the plan by an American, John DeLorean, to build a new type of car in Belfast. But after the government had spent millions, the plan collapsed when DeLorean was charged with embezzling the funds.
UNIONIST POWER STRUGGLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the UUUC defeated Sunningdale, it soon fell apart as Craig, West and Paisley competed for the leadership of the unionist community.• Craig's Vanguard Party was quickly discredited by its links to loyalist paramilitaries and Craig's poor leadership.• West led the traditionally strong Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) but he too was a poor leader and was hampered by the party's weak organisation. In the first direct elections to the European Parliament in 1979, he lost out to Paisley.• He then resigned and was replaced by James Molyneaux. He thought Northern Ireland should be more fully integrated into Britain and spent much of his time in Westminster.• Ian Paisley quickly recovered from the defeat of the second loyalist strike and his party gained support in local elections at the expense of the UUP. His victory over West in the European elections saw him emerge as an important unionist spokesman.
JAMES MOLYNEAUX (1920–2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Molyneaux served in the RAF in World War II, then became a farmer in Co. Antrim. An active member of the Orange Order and the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), he was elected to Westminster in 1970.• He opposed the Sunningdale Agreement and the power-sharing Executive.• While Harry West was leader of the UUP in Northern Ireland, Molyneaux led the Ulster Unionist MPs at Westminster.
Keywords	Summary

