WHY DID O'NEILL RESIGN IN 1969?

DIVIDED SUPPORT IN PARTY ☁️

He had **powerful enemies** in his own party: **FAULKNER, CRAIG, CHICHESTER CLARK.** They didn't trust him and thought he was doing a poor job 😠 🇬🇧

Some of O.Neill's decisions were **UNPOPULAR with some Unionists** like meeting Irish PM Sean Lemass and keeping it a secret 😤 🇬🇧 🤫

O'NEILL was **appointed not elected** by the party. He was a **liberal unionist** with a wealthy background and English education. He therefore found it hard to get the party behind his reforms

LACK OF CONFIDENCE FROM UNIONIST COMMUNITY 😠

Unlonists were **dismayed by the concessions** being offered to nationalists. Many felt this was **achieved by violence or the threat of violence**

The *HUNT COMMISSION* and **CAMERON COMMISSION** both heavily *criticise* unionists and the RUC for their roles in the violence
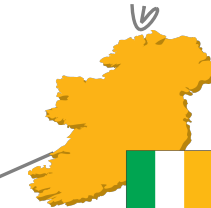
Many see O'Neill as perhaps increasing the **threat of a United Ireland**

LACK OF CONFIDENCE From BRITISH GOVERNMENT 🇬🇧

N. Ireland had been left to its own devices for 50 years until it began to create trouble for the British government

The British government were concerned about the images coming out about the **Derry March in 1968!**and Burntollet bridge

They were also **concerned O'Neill was letting the situation get out of hand**

'The BOMB'

The **UVF** deliberately *bombed a water pipeline*. This was blamed on the IRA (as the UVF had hoped)They knew O'Neill would then have to **resign**

O'Neill describes it as **'blowing him out of office'**

LACK OF CONFIDENCE FROM NATIONALISTS

O'Neills hoped for *support from moderate nationalists 🇮🇪 never materialised*

Reforms like the **FIVE POINT PROGRAMME** are *welcomed* but **don't go far enough** for many nationalists. **They want an end to the B Specials and special powers act for example**

Nationalists initially *welcomed* O'Neills ideas and gestures such as meeting Archbishop Conway and support for Catholic schools and hospitals 👏 🎉

HOWEVER nothing on reforms has been **solidly delivered. This led to frustration and anger** 😠 😤

In fact some policies are **provocative** to Catholics including
- A **new city called Craigavon (**after the first unionist PM) 🏙️
- The building of a new **university** at **Coleraine** rather than DERRY (which was the obvious choice as it was the second largest city in Northern Ireland.) 🏛️