

McKie book to clash with Holyrood poll

By **Liam McDougall**

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A CONTROVERSIAL book on the Shirley McKie fingerprint case that is highly critical of the Labour-LibDem coalition is to be published just weeks before next year's Holyrood elections.

The book, to be co-written by the former detective's father Iain McKie and former MSP Mike Russell, will be published in April, when campaigning for the Scottish parliamentary elections on May 3 will be in full swing.

The deal for the book, to be called *Shirley McKie: The Price Of Innocence*, was signed last week with Scots publishers Birlinn for an undisclosed sum.

Last night, Iain McKie said the book would "pull no punches" in its condemnation of the Executive and will single out First Minister Jack McConnell, Labour justice minister Cathy Jamieson, and Jim Wallace, the Liberal Democrat former justice minister, for particular criticism.

In February this year, the Executive paid Shirley McKie £750,000 in an out-

Something went badly wrong, and it wasn't Jack McConnell's 'honest mistake'

of-court damages settlement after she had been wrongly accused of leaving her fingerprint at the scene of a murder in 1997. She was charged with having committed perjury over this matter at the trial of the man convicted of the murder, but was acquitted in court in 1999.

Iain McKie said: "There have been so many cover-ups and lies told about the case and this will tell the true story. Quite frankly, it will show that Scottish ministers who presided over this case lied to the public and that the criminal justice system in this country is in some chaos."

Mike Russell, the former SNP MSP who is co-writing the book, added: "This tremendous miscarriage of justice can be laid squarely at the door of the Scottish Executive."

Last week, it emerged that a film about the McKie case is being worked on by Australian movie producers.

Labour and Liberal Democrat spokesmen refused to comment on the book.