IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- and -

GEORGE SAMUEL PORTER

Transcript of the oral sentencing delivered by His Honour Judge R.M. Bourassa, sitting at Gjoa Haven, in the Northwest Territories, Friday, February 13th,

A.D. 1987.

APPEARANCES:

MR. R. FLAHERTY

MR. J. VERTES

Counsel for the Crown

Counsel for the Defence



STATISTICS
DATE OF BIRTH. 60-08-26 M F DRIVER'S LICENCE:
MARITAL STATUS: Married

Sworn before me this SYA. day of June

A.D. 19 86
at Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.

Signature of Intomes

Justice of the Peace

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THE COURT: Well, amongst many other things, Sonny Porter has proven himself to be a thief. We can lock our doors against a thief. We can run away and hide from someone who wants to assault us. But we have no protection, and we cannot protect ourselves from those that live under the same roof as us and those that are trusted and share our lives with us such as Sonny Porter. I would imagine that he would leave the Post Office every night locking the door so that thieves from the outside couldn't get in, while he walked out with the money he stole from inside. He used his education, his good job, his intelligence to steal from people that trusted him. I think it is very sad. He brings shame on himself. He brings shame on his family's name. He brings shame to his community.

As pointed out by both lawyers, our law, everyore's law, says that when people are in that situation and they steal, there must be a jail sentence. The hope is that other people that get in a position similar to Sonny's will think twice before they ever try and help themselves to money or abuse their position.

This is not to say that Sonny Porter is all bad. Certainly he isn't all bad. He is still young, and if he uses his intelligence and Tearns from this, he can be an asset to the community; he can be a good father and a good husband. I think reconciliation and restoring the community peace is important. Sonny is going to pay a penalty for what he did, but then that will be the end of it, and I hope that he puts it behind him and gets on to better things, and, as well,

 that others in the community that might be tempted to do what he did think twice. Like many crimes, they are easy to commit and it only takes a moment to commit them, but it takes a long, long time to repair the damage. Amongst other things, I am going to order that he pay back Ten thousand dollars. I know that is going to be difficult. It is not something he can do as fast as he stole it. The unfortunate part of it is that his wife and his three little kids are going to have to suffer while he pays that money back, because that is money that won't be available for them simply to live on. This always happens in criminal offences. It is always other people that are hurt perhaps more than the particular individual involved. In some cases it gets so bad the whole community is hurt and loses its reputation or gets a reputation of being a terrible place.

He has pleaded guilty and has accepted responsibility for what he has done. The pre-sentence report speaks well about him. In trying to balance the factors involved, both good and bad, my sentence is as follows: Stand up, please, Mr. Porter. Is there anything you want to say before the Court passes sentence on you?

MR. PORTER: Yes, Your Honour. I know I brought shame to my family, and I have learned from my mistake, and I feel I won't do a thing like this again.

THE COURT:

On this matter I am going to impose a term of imprisonment of six months. In addition to that, I am going to place the accused on probation for two years. The only term

of the probation order is that he pay restitution to the Clerk

I was going to suggest you could keep him on

I would further say, Mr. Porter, that you may

of the Court for payment to Canada Post in the amount of Ten

probation for up to three years, Your Honour. Two years, he

apply to the Court at any time for an extension of your proba-

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thousand dollars.

MR. FLAHERTY:

THE COURT:

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26 27 tion or to modify the terms or conditions of your probation order. It is not my intention to drive you mad in seeking this restitution. However, the quicker it is paid off, then the quicker this matter will be behind you and gone. I am sure Mr. Vertes can advise you as to the consequences of willfully refusing to comply and what willfully means and the discharge

Mr. Flaherty?

is going to be hard pressed to pay.

Yes.

The order, then, will commence upon his release MR. FLAHERTY: after serving his sentence?

THE COURT:

of, this order.

MR. VERTES:

Thank you, Your Honour.

Centified a correct transcript,

Jill MacDonald, Court Reporter.