



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

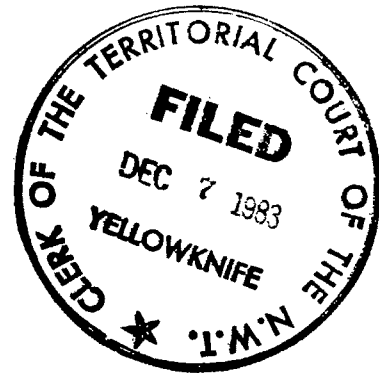
IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- and -

LUKE EETUK



---

Transcript of the Remarks on Sentencing delivered by  
His Honour Chief Judge J. R. Slaven, sitting at Rankin  
Inlet, in the Northwest Territories, on Tuesday,  
November 8, A.D. 1983.

---

APPEARANCES:

MR. G. BICKERT                      On behalf of the Crown  
MR. G. PHILLIPS                    On behalf of the Defence



1 THE COURT: It is so disturbing to me the number of this type of  
2 case that we have had in the North through the years, with  
3 people in positions of trust in effect stealing from their  
4 employer; and it's even worse when it's a co-op where he's  
5 not only stealing from his employer, but stealing from his  
6 fellow co-op members. The co-op has been an extremely use-  
7 ful program, I feel, for the Northwest Territories. It was  
8 just really getting in gear when I came up twelve years ago.  
9 I helped draft the legislation for the Federation of Co-ops;  
10 and it put power, if you wish, in the hands of the people in  
11 the community to run their own co-op retail outlets. The  
12 co-op, of course, buys a lot of carvings, and performs many  
13 useful functions. It has been useful in allowing the local  
14 people to run their own affairs and to learn the ways of  
15 business. It's disturbing the number of usually, I guess,  
16 naturally outstanding people--Mr. Eetuk hasn't got much edu-  
17 cation, but it must be on ability that he has achieved a good  
18 salary, and he's acquired good, responsible jobs and been voted  
19 into them by his fellow co-op members. And then he abuses  
20 their trust. This happens so often, not only with the natives  
21 in co-ops, of course. It happens a lot in the North with  
22 people from the South up here that also get jobs with the  
23 government, or banks, or housing associations, or what have  
24 you, and make off with money. There is a long line of law  
25 laid down by the higher courts in Canada throughout the  
26 decades that in situations like this, in order to deter others,  
27 jail sentences are virtually obligatory.



1                   It is an aggravating circumstance here that when  
2                   questioned about the five thousand, Mr. Eetuk first said he  
3                   had brought it back and put in the safe and it disappeared.  
4                   All that does, of course, is throw suspicion on all the others  
5                   who would be in the co-op and around there. Then later he  
6                   told this cock-and-bull story about giving four thousand to  
7                   the R.C.M.P. for safekeeping, and persisted in it up until  
8                   a few moments ago. Nothing about that he went on a party  
9                   spree in Yellowknife. That often happens. You go to the big  
10                  town for a week's conference or something and end up partying.  
11                  Whatever happened, maybe a good deal of the money was stolen  
12                  from him in Yellowknife. We'll never know. But there were  
13                  no pressing family financial circumstances, apparently, that  
14                  forced him to steal the money. So, as with so many, he and  
15                  others must be shown that society does not accept behaviour  
16                  such as this.

17                  Would you stand up, Mr. Eetuk? I convict you of the  
18                  charge of the theft of the five thousand dollars and direct  
19                  you be imprisoned for a period of eight months. I convict  
20                  you of the charge of the bad cheque, the first one, and direct  
21                  you be imprisoned for a period of two months to be served  
22                  consecutively. I convict you of the charge of the second  
23                  bad cheque and direct you be imprisoned for two months to be  
24                  served concurrent. Convict you of the charge of the third  
25                  bad cheque and direct you be imprisoned for a period of two  
26                  months to be served concurrent. Serve a total of ten months.

27                  You might be in really strained financial circumstances.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

when you get out, and I'm not going to order that you pay  
restitution to the victims. I suggest to you that when you  
get out, if you get a half-decent job, you should pay that money  
back to your fellow co-operative members so that you can hold  
your head high in the community.

(AT WHICH TIME THIS MATTER WAS CONCLUDED.)

-----

Certified a correct transcript

*Edna Thiessen*  
Edna Thiessen, Court Reporter