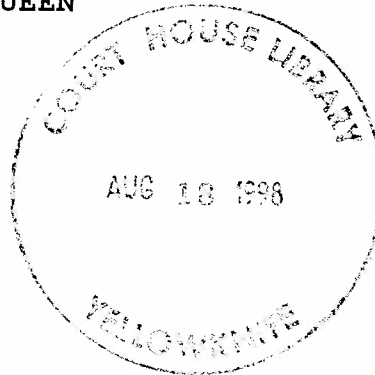


IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- and -

JAMIE EDWARDS



Transcript of Reasons for Sentence delivered by The Honourable Judge R.M. Bourassa, sitting at Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, on Friday, April 24, A.D. 1998.

APPEARANCES:

Mr. B. Allison: On behalf of the Crown
Mr. R. Gorin: On behalf of the Defence

(Charges under s. 465(1)(c)(x2) of the Criminal Code)

1 THE COURT:

2 The accused has pled guilty to two
3 charges of conspiring to traffic in a narcotic, or a
4 controlled substance as it is now called. The accused
5 is part of a large organization and quite a number of
6 individuals who are all charged similarly.

7 It is rare that the courts are afforded the
8 opportunity of dealing with, by way of sentence,
9 members of criminal organizations involved in
10 trafficking drugs. Usually, because of efforts made by
11 the criminals involved and the resources of police, I
12 suppose, we only get the street level trafficker from
13 time to time. It appears that this occasion the police
14 have done their work well and a large number are
15 involved. Of course, at this point they're still all
16 presumed innocent.

17 In my view, the biggest mitigating factor is the
18 guilty plea and the fact that the accused is
19 cooperating with the police, and it is certainly going
20 to burn his bridges. I don't imagine the other named
21 individuals on the Informations are going to feel
22 kindly disposed towards Mr. Edwards.

23 That cooperation with the police, as I said, is, I
24 think, the significant, most mitigating factor. I have
25 no hesitation in contemplating a term of imprisonment
26 well into the federal penitentiary range for an offence
27 such as this, in the jurisdiction, given the
difficulties involved in getting the main people

1 involved in organizations.

2 Crown and defence are jointly suggesting to the
3 Court a term of imprisonment of two years in the
4 federal penitentiary. The Court of Appeal has
5 indicated that if a joint submission is not
6 unreasonable, the Court ought to accept it. I have the
7 greatest respect for the experience of Crown and
8 defence. They are well experienced in the practise of
9 criminal law in the Northwest Territories and familiar
10 with the ranges of sentence imposed by the Territorial,
11 Supreme, and Court of Appeal. In my view, given that
12 he is cooperating with the police and the guilty plea,
13 the sentence is reasonable and I don't propose to
14 change it.

15 I will direct, therefore, that he serve a term of
16 imprisonment of two years on the charge of conspiring
17 between the 1st of January, 1997 and the 23rd of March,
18 1998, and a term of one year concurrent on the charge
19 of conspiring on the 28th of June, 1997. As I am sure
20 has been pointed out to Mr. Edwards, that if he behaves
21 himself in penitentiary, he could be out in as little
22 as four to six months. That's up to him. Whatever
23 happens, I hope Mr. Edwards has learned his lesson and
24 finds some other way to make his way through life.
25 Even the convictions, after the sentencing has expired,
26 are going to complicate his life. I will make the
27 recommendation requested by defence that he serve -- he

1 will be transferred and serve his time at the Spring
2 Hill federal penitentiary in Nova Scotia.

3 MR. GORIN: Thank you, sir.

4 THE COURT: Is there anything else?

5 MR. ALLISON: No, Your Honour.

6 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)

7

8

9

.....
Certified pursuant to Practice
Direction #20 dated December 28, 1987

10

11



Jane Romanowich
Court Reporter

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27