

9th April, 1987

Her Majesty's Attorney General

-v-

David George Wilkinson

Before The Bailiff, assisted by Jurats Perrée, Lucas, Blampied, Baker, Bonn, Orchard and Hamon.

Judgment

.

The Bailiff: Wilkinson your counsel has said everything that could possibly be said on your behalf, and you may rest assured that we have taken everything he has said in most careful consideration when we were adjourned. However, it cannot be overlooked, as it has been said by the Solicitor General, that blackmail is a serious and despicable crime, and normally it carries with it a substantial sentence. That seems to be the principle that we derived from the established cases. Dealing with individual cases it is very difficult to compare unlike facts with unlike facts, they have to be similar, and there is a considerable distinction in the Standing case. All that case we think shows, like the Costello case is, that as I said generally, substantial sentences of imprisonment are imposed. We considered whether we could impose a sentence of probation, and your Probation report is as full and helpful as it could be, but we came to the conclusion that we could not do so. There are not sufficient mitigating circumstances in this case to enable us to depart from the accepted principle we think that the case has disclosed that there should be a prison sentence. We take into account of course, that it was premeditated, that the victim suffered, that you asked for money, that you also asked for sexual

favours, although your main intent may well have been to get money, and that indeed, the affect on the victim is still being shown, in as much that she is still undergoing medical treatment. All of these to our mind are aggravating factors, we cannot find the Solicitor General's conclusions are otherwise right and proper and you are therefore sentenced (by a majority I should add) to six years imprisonment, but we make a recommendation that you should be assessed to see whether you are suitable to attend Grendon Underwood Prison.

✓