

ROYAL COURT

7th August, 1992

142.

Before: The Bailiff, and
Jurats Orchard and Gruchy

The Attorney General

- v -

John Christopher Quinn

1 Count of Fraud

AGE: 46

PLEA: Guilty.

DETAILS OF OFFENCE:

Quinn obtained sickness benefit for 6 months while continuing to work. He obtained £1,950. He did not read the small print but was aware that what he was doing was wrong.

DETAILS OF MITIGATION:

He claimed that a decision to pay him benefit at the single rate meant that he had insufficient funds to support his Thai wife whom he had married after a rapid courtship in Thailand. His wife remained in that country. Otherwise a good workman, said to be reliable.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS:

Several minor - none for dishonesty.

CONCLUSIONS:

3 months' imprisonment.

SENTENCE AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE COURT:

Probation - 1 year and 90 hours' Community Service.

The Attorney General.

Advocate S.A. Meiklejohn for the accused.

JUDGMENT

THE BAILIFF: Quinn, what you did was very wrong. It amounts to stealing from your fellow citizens.

The Social Security Fund is there to help people who are not working, not to top up people's income for whatever reason the person defrauding them thinks is appropriate.

However, after looking at your record which does not include convictions for dishonesty - and make no mistake about it, this is a dishonest offence - and having regard to your medical condition and to the other matters put forward in mitigation, we have decided to place you on probation for 1 year, with the usual conditions, that is to say that you live and work - if you are fit enough to do so - as directed by the Probation Officer, and that you be of good behaviour during that time; in addition you will perform 90 of hours Community Service.

If you do not comply with these conditions other than for medical reasons, you will be brought back to this Court and you may then go to prison.

No authorities.