

15th April, 1985

85/35

H M Attorney General -v- Del George Shannon

DEPUTY BAILIFF: It is clearly desirable that where someone is charged with two serious offences that they should be given the opportunity quite clearly to be legally represented if they so wish. We cannot, however, find anything wrong in the centenier's explanations to the accused or the appellant; it is unfortunate that he wasn't in a position to cross-examine the centenier because he is, as is clearly indicated by you, Mr Thacker, a man of limited literacy, but, nevertheless, having said all that and I don't express ^{any opinion} in open Court as regards the presentation of a case where it is possible some of the evidence may be disputed, having said all that, it was a serious case of Article 14; the amount of drink which clearly led to that offence was heavy and even if the Magistrate had had the psychiatric report in front of him, we cannot necessarily say that he would have come to a different conclusion nor can we say that the sentence was manifestly excessive. The appeal is dismissed. Legal aid costs.