

1st May, 1986.

A.G. -v- ANTONIO TERESIO MILETI
AND
VERONICA MARGARET MILETI, née MC CARTHY

(HOUSING INFRACTIONS)

BAILIFF: You were convicted by this Court for infractions of the Housing Laws of this Island. You must know that the evasion of those laws constitutes an infraction not only of those laws but is an offence against your fellow citizens, all of who, or most of whom who come here and have to wait a reasonable time before they can be permitted to buy or lease have done so, and by your actions you attempted, so to speak, to jump the gun and you involved a trusting woman, perhaps a foolish woman, I don't know, in your arrangements.

We do not accept what either of your Counsel have said that you are entitled to take shelter behind the fact that you sought the advice of an experienced lawyer. We do not think that you told the lawyer all that you had in mind and we are quite certain that he would not have been a party to the scheme had you divulged anything to him in the way you should have done had you been minded to act honestly. We are quite certain that you went into these matters with your eyes open and you both merit a substantial fine.

Now having said that, however, we note of course that you were then married. That in theory, each of you could be fined a maximum of £61,000, but we think we should regard this infraction as a joint venture. We are going to do so and therefore for the purposes of considering how much you should be fined we regarded the maximum of £61,000 between the two and not £61,000 each as invited by the Attorney General.

We think, nevertheless, there should be a substantial fine on each of you not only to reflect the seriousness of what you have done but as an indication that society will not tolerate this kind of activity in an Island where there is this grave housing shortage.

You are each fined the sum of £15,000 or in default, 12 months imprisonment, and you will pay jointly and severally the prosecution's costs up to £1,000. You will have nine months in which to pay. You may sit down.

Now Mr. Viscount, there is a particular arrangement which arises from this case. The house has to be sold to meet these substantial fines and should matters arise in that Mrs. Tirel does not co-operate, we have been told

that she will of course, but should she not then of course you have to report to us. In other words you are not to implement the imprisonment in default without reference to us.

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You have nine months in which to pay as we have said, or, if the property is sold within that time naturally you cannot hang on to the money, you have to pay it once the property is sold.

Thankyou. Your Counsel have both done everything they could for you. I want you to understand that.