

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1914 and 1926.

IN THE WAKEFIELD COUNTY COURT.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

No. 1 of 1972.

RE: JOHN GARLICK LLEWELLYN POULSON.

RESUMED PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF THE DEBTOR.

Before MR. REGISTRAR GARSIDE,  
at the Court  
this 26th day of September, 1972.

PRESENT:

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER: MR. W. A. Bishop.

FOR THE TRUSTEE: Mr. Muir Hunter, Q.C.  
Mr. D. Graham.  
Mr. Crystal.

FOR THE DEBTOR: Mr. L. Saffman.

The above-named debtor, being sworn and examined at the time and place above-mentioned, upon the several questions following being put and propounded to him, gave the several answers thereto respectively following each question, that is to say :

MR. MUIR HUNTER: I am most grateful to the Court for giving us a little time. The reason for the delay was that the documents to be supplied by Mr. Reginald Maudling for the use of the Trustee yesterday did not arrive in Wakefield until late last night, and, having been wrongly addressed, were only recovered this morning, since when I and my learned juniors have had to read them at very great speed. I am most obliged for the assistance of the Court in giving us time to do so.

I should also explain I shall be asking Mr. Poulson some questions about that large number of files that were recovered from him in accordance with his undertaking to the court given last night, some of which are, in fact, relevant and they have had to be digested during the night.

Perhaps I might also be allowed to mention,

These are the Notes of the Public Examination, referred to in the Memorandum of Public Examination, of ..... taken before me this ..... day of ..... 19 .

Registrar.

as a tribute to the gentleman concerned, that Mr. F. Bailey, who was described by Mr. Poulson yesterday as a debtor to him on a very long outstanding loan made in 1962/1963, paid the Trustee yesterday £270 in repayment, which, of course, is a further accretion to the assets.

THE REGISTRAR: Yes.

JOHN GARLICK LLEWELLYN POULSON, recalled.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: Mr. Poulson, yesterday the microphone arrangements were not working very well. Would you try and speak into the microphone so that the press can hear you, and may I, sir, through you, ask the press if they do not hear properly to let one of my juniors know. Also the same applies to the very able young ladies who are taking the transcription.

3627. Q. Mr. Poulson, on the B.B.C. television last night you gave an interview; is that right? A. I gave one the week before, sir, on three days, I think - three afternoons.

3628. Q. But it was radiated yesterday? A. I had no idea that it was going to be done until the end of the year, that was what I was informed at the time I was doing it, and it also was a condition that there was no reference to any matters that are taking place at present.

3629. Q. I am awaiting a transcription of the interview, Mr. Poulson, but is it right that you said that your main object had been to protect other people's reputations? A. No, it wasn't my main object, but I am afraid I had done inadvertently.

3630. Q. In fairness to yourself, Mr. Poulson, I wish to know whether the answers you have been giving here about any persons other than yourself have been influenced rather by a desire to protect their reputation than to tell the whole truth?  
A. No, sir.

3631. Q. What then did you mean by saying that your object had been to protect their reputations? A. Well, I didn't want to --- It was in opposition to being contrary to, or damaging.

3632. Q. And you are not conscious of having given any answer about any person other than yourself which has been influenced by a desire to protect reputations rather than to get at the truth?  
A. No, sir. I don't seem to have achieved anything.

3633. Q. No. Now, last night, Mr. Poulson, you delivered up, in accordance with your undertaking to the Court, a quantity of files which we had been led to believe, had we not, were irrelevant? A. Well, I still thought they were when I saw them this morning. There was even a mixture of some of my wife's things.

3634. Q. Yes. They included, did they not, a file containing a number of hotel bills, including bills at the Dorchester about which I had previously asked you questions? A. I don't know, sir. We didn't even see that file last night. You are telling me something I didn't even see.
3635. Q. Yes. And those bills, which we will look at later on, included bills relating to the stay of Mr. Pottinger, with or without members of his family, at the Dorchester Hotel at your expense; is that right? A. I don't know, sir. I haven't seen the file.
3636. Q. Do you remember we asked you about this and you said Mr. Pottinger had stayed once in a room paid for him. In fact, it was, according to these bills, on several occasions, was it not? A. I don't remember, sir.
3637. Q. Is it a fact that so many people stayed at the Dorchester at your expense that you cannot clearly remember who did? A. Well, it was business or friends, there was nothing ---
3638. Q. Why should you let Mr. Pottinger stay at the Dorchester at your expense? A. The occasions that he did would be when he was going with me on the two Hellenic cruises.
3639. Q. It was just the Hellenic cruises. A. At least, it was as far as I can remember.
3640. Q. Do you remember I asked you about Mr. Cunningham's holidays? A. Yes.
3641. Q. And you said there were three jobs, but only two holidays. Do you remember that you provided, and paid for, a holiday at the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth, for Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham and their family in July, 1968? A. No, sir, I have forgotten all about it, if it ever took place. Obviously it did.
3642. Q. And perhaps it would remind you that Mr. Cunningham in the event could not go, so Mrs. Cunningham took a friend to occupy his bed? A. No, it doesn't.
3643. Q. July, 1968, and these are letters written by your secretary, Miss McLeod, on your notepaper, signed "p.p. J.G.L. Poulson." I will just show it to you. (Handed to witness) That would make it the third holiday for the third job, you see. It appears from the correspondence that a special account in the name of your firm was opened at the Carlton Hotel for the purpose of accommodating Alderman Cunningham and his family, with instructions that the bill be sent to you for settlement. You were totally unaware of this? A. I can't remember it, sir.
3644. Q. And I suppose you equally cannot think of any reason why you

should pay for Alderman Cunningham and his family to go and stay at the expense of your practice? A. I don't think I ever did it for ad. lib., I am quite sure. I don't think there was such a request.

3645. Q. Would Miss McLeod have asked you about this? A. I suppose so, sir, if I was in the country.

3646. Q. How had this started, do you suppose? Do you suppose Mr. Cunningham rang Miss McLeod and said he wanted to go to the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth, would you please fix it up? A. I can't remember, sir. I didn't know he had ever been. I don't remember the incident at all.

3647. Q. You see, when I asked you yesterday about Mr. Dan Smith's holidays in Greece, of which there were two, I think you rather suggested that it was all an invention? A. Sir, what I told you was, as far as I was concerned, what I believed was the case.

3648. Q. Well, then, I must press you, Mr. Poulson. These sums are very large; these holidays run at the rate of two or three or four hundred pounds a time, do they not? A. I didn't know that; I thought they were two hundred.

3649. Q. Mr. Cunningham has just repaid the Trustee £652 for two holidays - that is just two holidays. The third one we do not know the cost of. A. I thought you had got the bill.

3650. Q. No, we will have to find that. But you see, I want to know, in fact, how this worked? I mean, there is Miss McLeod, an excellent, hardworking secretary, and I would like to know whether she had the power to turn on the tap for any holiday for anybody in your entourage, or friends, or whether it would be referred to you. You must be able to answer that question? A. It would be referred to me if I was here, sir, in the country at the time, but it couldn't be if I wasn't.

3651. Q. Take an example, Miss McLeod would say, "Cunningham wants another holiday at the seaside, is it alright?" Would it be something like that? A. That's what happened the last time, the last incident.

3652. Q. Yes, and you said what? A. I said "Yes". I told you that before, sir, previous.

3653. Q. Why? I mean, why should you pay for an alderman and a trade union leader to go and have a holiday at your expense? There must be some explanation, Mr. Poulson. A. There is no explanation of anything.

3654. Q. Well then, you have dealt for the moment with a case where you were present. If you were not present - and you were frequently abroad, were you not - it seems that Miss McLeod had the power to send people on holiday at your expense on her own authority; is that right? A. I think she would exercise some wisdom.
3655. Q. What wisdom is required to know whether Cunningham is to have another holiday? A. Well, she knew he had been before.
3656. Q. What? A. She knew he had been before.
3657. Q. You mean, anybody who was on the gravy train could go again? A. No, sir; there wasn't such a thing.
3658. Q. Right. Well, tell me, in the absence of Miss McLeod, how Miss McLeod would know who to give holidays to and who not? A. Well, the only reason, sir -- The only thing she could be guided by is if they rang her up and she knew them and they had been in touch with her before.
3659. Q. Knew what? A. Knew they had been in touch with her before.
3660. Q. Knew that they were one of your consultants perhaps? A. Yes, sir.
3661. Q. So a consultant could have a holiday more or less on demand? A. No, sir, there was nothing like that.
3662. Q. Well then, if it was not on demand, how would Miss McLeod know? A. He was the only person, I think, who ever rang her up and asked for one.
3663. Q. You mean other people would --- A. I can't remember anybody else doing it.
3664. Q. You see, we look at your travel expenditure files, Mr. Poulson, and we find immense expenditures, much, of course, concerned with the travel for yourself and your staff on business. We also find, sometimes quite by chance, large expenditures on your friends, like Mr. Cunningham. Now, of the debts proved in your bankruptcy, over £5,000 is represented by the outstanding travel arrangements which had not been paid for at the time of your bankruptcy. Now, how are we to know which of the people who went on holiday were entitled to go on holiday at your expense? A. If Miss McLeod and I saw the list, sir, we could give you which were the staff and which were not.
3665. Q. Would you in all cases approve Miss McLeod's judgment in this? A. Yes.
3666. Q. You would not ever say, "Oh, well, he had one already this year, we can't have him, he will have to pay."? A. I don't think so, sir.

3667. Q. It is a fact, is it not, that all this immense expenditure on giving people holidays, and cars, and other things, whether it was by way of a loan, or whether it was a gift, was never sought by you to be recovered? A. No, sir.
3668. Q. So that even when you were desperate for money you would not think of asking Alderman Cunningham to pay for his holidays? A. But even then, sir, I was never convinced that I could not ultimately pay everybody off.
3669. Q. Well now, that is one file - I will not trouble you with any great detail on it at the moment. We now have found a car expenditure file also which you omitted to produce. Mr. Poulson, when I refer to files, I am corrected; none of them came in files, they were loose, and we have endeavoured to assemble them. Who is Mr. J. Blackburn, O.B.E., J.P., can you tell me? A. At Pontefract?
3670. Q. Yes. Does he live at "Wellbeck", Mill Hill Lane? A. I don't know the address, sir.
3671. Q. Your file contains a letter addressed by him to the West Riding Automobile Company complaining of an accident to his Vauxhall Shooting Brake, RHH 4B, and he says he has taken the car to the works of Pontefract Motors. There is a list in this bundle also of cars maintained by your firm, on which we find what I think must be the same car, although it is called CHH 4B Victor, Mr. Blackburn. Now, was Mr. Blackburn an employee of yours? A. No, sir.
3672. Q. We then find that your staff, Mr. Camm, are concerning themselves with this accident and the recovery of the insurance for him. Does this mean that you were providing Alderman Blackburn with a car? A. No, sir, I loaned him a car while his own was being repaired after this accident.
3673. Q. No. You mean --- A. Only for a short period. It was a car of the firm, a spare one. It wasn't purchased as a new one for anyone.
3674. Q. Now, I will show you a carbon copy of his letter. (Handed to witness) It plainly should be CHH 4B, because we have got that on another letter. There Alderman Blackburn, a prominent public servant, describes the car as "My car". Are you suggesting that it was not his car? A. It was not; it was on loan, sir.
3675. Q. Well, how long did you lend it to him for? A. I haven't any idea. Probably about three or four months, or something like that.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: The date of the letter is 23rd June, 1965.

Look at this list. (Handed to witness) I have two copies, I will show the witness the top copy, perhaps the learned Registrar would like to look at the other.

3676. Q. You see the last item in the first section refers to this car as having been purchased, I think, in September, 1964? A. Yes.

3677. Q. And it is put down as one of the cars of your very, very large fleet of cars --- A. They were all staff.

3678. Q. Most of the rest of which are your staff. Now, how does Mr. Blackburn come, in June, 1965, to be referring as "My car" to a car in your fleet which has been purchased in 1964?

A. I can't answer for what he says, sir, but I ---

3679. Q. No, no, it is not what he says. The piece of paper in front of you is a document from your --- A. Yes, but that was on loan at the time. It ultimately came back to us.

3680. Q. The fact of the matter is this, that you supplied Mr. Blackburn with a car as a favour at your firm's expense? A. No, sir. We loaned him one for a period while he was without his own.

3681. Q. When did he give it you back? A. I can't remember the date, sir.

3682. Q. You supplied a lot of people with cars, did you not, like Mr. Pottinger? A. I certainly loaned him one.

3683. Q. And Mr. Harris, the bank manager? A. Yes, after he had retired.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: Could your Honour spare one of the lists?

(Handed to Mr. Muir Hunter)

3684. Q. When I look at this list, Mr. Poulson, we find that your brother, Mr. C. A. Poulson, appears as the owner of a Cresta? A. Yes.

3685. Q. The user of a Cresta? A. Yes.

3686. Q. Now, do you see what the heading to that column is, "Owner"? A. Yes, but it is an incorrect statement, sir.

3687. Q. Well, I suppose it was typed by somebody in your office?

A. Well, whether it was or it wasn't, it is still incorrect.

3688. Q. Well then, you go down a little further and you will find ---

A. Because none of these people -- The only person -- Every one of these are not owners, sir. Every one is a car belonging to the firm - every one. So the only owner ought to have been J.G.L. Poulson.

3689. Q. Then perhaps it should be "User"; is that right? A. Well, I don't know the wording, sir, but my brother had one.

3690. Q. You see, this will not do at all, Mr. Poulson. This list was drawn up by somebody in your office, no doubt for the purpose of income tax or something, on the 15th February, 1965, and this accident to the car driven by Alderman Blackburn took place in the September. That would mean that he had been in possession of this car for seven months. Do you still say ---  
A. I didn't think it was anything like that, sir.
3691. Q. Well then, it makes nonsense, does it not, of your suggestion that you lent this car to him while his own was being repaired?  
A. No, sir; it was so.
3692. Q. Mr. Poulson, I hope you will not force us to ask for a private examination of Alderman Blackburn of ascertainable --- A. The only thing you can do is -- I can't give you the exact dates, but what you're suggesting is not correct, sir.
3693. Q. Well, then, let us look at your brother's car, XHH 580?  
A. He had it.
3694. Q. Do you notice that you bought, apparently, a flock of cars, XHH 577 --- A. But all the others are staff, sir.
3695. Q. I know, but they are all registered in order, you see, 578, 580. You seem to have bought a whole flock of Crestas, and your brother had one of them, and has had one, apparently, since 1963 - that is, two years. Now, why should you provide your brother, who was the bank manager of Barclays Bank at the Horbury Branch, with a car? A. Surely, I can do what I like with my own money, sir, and he is my brother, the only member of the family left.
3696. Q. You mean he was so badly paid by Barclays Bank that he could not afford a car? A. No, sir.
3697. Q. Even though he would get mileage allowance from his bank. Well now, do you remember Mr. Harris, the manager of Barclays Bank at Chesterfield? A. Yes.
3697. Q. Where you had your principal account? A. Yes, sir.
3698. Q. Is he the Mr. Harris who has a Victor 674 CWR? A. Yes.
3699. Q. Why should you supply another branch manager of Barclays --  
A. When he retired.
3700. Q. No, no. You said, "When he retired"? A. Yes, sir. He asked me if I would let him have one. This was one of the old ones; it wasn't a new one.
3701. Q. He asked you to let him have a car? A. Loan him a car, which he returned when asked to - requested.



3702. Q. You are quite sure it was after he retired? A. Yes.  
You can contact him and I am sure he will confirm that.
3703. Q. Mr. Poulson, do be careful in what you answer. Are you saying that at the date of this list, 15th February, 1965, that Mr. Harris here, using one of your cars, had retired?  
A. Well, if this is the Mr. Harris that was the Barclay's Bank Manager, he didn't get it until after - if it is; but I don't know whether it is.
3704. Q. I see. A. You are suggesting it is, and I am taking it it is. If it wasn't when he retired - he certainly didn't get it before he retired, and I think you must be wrong because I think he had a Cresta - one of the old Crestas. I think this might have been one of the staff - Clerk of Works. I think this is not the same Mr. Harris, because he would not have a Victor. This would be one of the Clerk of Works, I think.
3705. Q. Did you, in fact, have a senior executive called Harris?  
A. We had Clerks of Works; the next one is a Clerk of Works, sir, and we never bought anything other than Crestas for seniors, as you can see. And it wasn't a new car that Mr. Harris had, it was an old one loaned to him for a period.
3706. Q. Well, in fact, the bank Mr. Harris, on whom we have a file, had a used Vauxhall Cresta. A. Well, that's what I was saying, sir. I didn't think it was when I look at this and see it's a Victor. That just confirms what I said.
3707. Q. Well now, who is Mr. Wilson who appears two down, the owner of a Consul? A. I don't know, sir.
3708. Q. Did you have a Wilson? A. Well, we must have had at the time. It must have been a car that was being sent in.
3709. Q. Was it Mr. R. P. Wilson, J.P. of Wharf Cottage, Ferrybridge, Knottingley? A. He was a friend of mine.
3710. Q. Did he have a car? A. Not that I am aware of.
3711. Q. Is this not the car that he had? A. I don't think so, sir. I am surprised we had a Consul, because I didn't know we bought any Consuls.
3712. Q. I have a letter addressed from your office by Mr. Camm to Mr. R. P. Wilson, J.P. What is his position in life? Is he a friend of yours? A. He is Ministry of Social Security, I think.
3713. Q. Ministry of Social Security. What is his job? A. I have not the foggiest idea, sir.

3714. Q. This is a letter written by Mr. Camm, in your name, to Mr. Wilson answering a letter about the test certificate. "Would you please obtain the test certificate as soon as possible as you are no doubt aware you are committing an offence", etc. "As the vehicle is registered in Mr. Poulson's name, he is the one who would be presumably prosecuted." So, this is a car provided at your expense and registered in your name, and provided to a serving officer of the Ministry of Social Security, and I suggest to you that that is the car referred to in this list. Perhaps you would like to tell me why you supplied it? A. I haven't any idea, sir.
3715. Q. Was this for some -- Was this a thank you? A. It couldn't be; this man couldn't do anything.
3716. Q. Do not be too sure, Mr. Poulson. You remember you used to have terrible trouble in getting people to put stamps on National Insurance cards? Do you remember, that was a bugbear in your office, was it not? Could it be -- A. No, sir.
3717. Q. Could it be a help? A. No, sir. I never approached the gentleman.
3718. Q. It was just another generous act? A. At that time.
3719. Q. Did he ask you for a car? A. I can't remember, sir. I should be making --
3720. Q. When did you last see Mr. Wilson? A. Probably four or five years ago.
3721. Q. What happened to the car? A. I have no idea, sir. It would be returned to us.
3722. Q. Why? A. Because this is what they did; they didn't keep them.
3723. Q. Who is "they" - the people who had -- A. All the staff. These are all staff cars.
3724. Q. But Mr. Wilson is not a member of your -- A. No, but just a minute, I am sorry, but all the others are staff cars, and when I said "they" I meant all these cars; "they" being the remainder of the staff.
3725. Q. You see, I can understand it, Mr. Poulson, if you said boldly, with the bold characteristic of your architectural designs, "Well, these people were on my staff, I used them," or "Wilson did this" and "Harris did that". A. Harris did nothing, sir.

3726. Q. "And Blackburn did something too." A. He didn't do anything. What did he do?
3727. Q. But you will not have it, will you? A. No, sir.
3728. Q. So you just go around distributing cars like you distribute holidays. A. Oh, no, I help people. These are totally different things.
3729. Q. Mr. Wilson, I see, is a Justice of the Peace? A. Yes, well, what difference does that make?
3730. Q. I do not know, I ask you? A. Well, it doesn't make any difference to me, sir. I didn't know that he was at this time.
3731. Q. Who was Mr. Tunbridge? A. He was the estate surveyor you mentioned yesterday.
3732. Q. Who was paid for coming and teaching you estate surveying at night? A. All very, very, effective.
3733. Q. Is he the Tunbridge to whom you supplied a car? A. Yes, sir.
3734. Q. A Rover car? A. Yes, sir.
3735. Q. Why? A. Well, it was another act of generosity, nothing else.
3736. Q. But surely the relationship between yourself and Mr. Tunbridge was an entirely professional one? A. Yes, sir.
3737. Q. And you paid him a considerable sum of money? A. Yes, and he was -- It was worth it.
3738. Q. Could it possibly be this, Mr. Poulson, probing deeper and deeper into your financial life and habits, that you had cars registered on your firm for which you would get depreciation and income tax relief, which you then lent to people in lieu of, or in addition to, their salary, on which they would not have to pay tax. That would explain Mr. Tunbridge, would it not? A. No, I didn't look at it that way, sir.
3739. Q. If Mr. Tunbridge was employed by you on terms that you paid him so much money and provided him with a car -- A. As a consultant.
3740. Q. That would be an emolument, would it not? A. As a consultant, yes.
3741. Q. Yes. So, you did not do it that way, you simply had a car registered in your name and you loaned it to him; is that correct? A. He was the only one, yes, sir.
3742. Q. The only one for whom you did it? A. Well, he was the only one that is listed on here.

3743. Q. Well now, had Mr. Pottinger joined the fleet at this time? A. Obviously not, sir.
3744. Q. No, otherwise he would have been there? A. Yes, sir.
3745. Q. Lined up with all your staff, would he not? Lined up with all your staff, your bankers -- A. Well, I don't know. I don't know whether it was kept separately, his, or not. I mean, it shows here there is a spare Cresta here with no name against it.
3746. Q. Well, actually Mr. Pottinger had a Rover, if you remember? A. Yes, but on this schedule there is a spare Cresta here which was evidently in reserve.
- MR. MUIR HUNTER: Well, I suppose there was always the odd friend who would need a car, so you had to have some spares. Well now, the next bundle - and I am not going to use names here, Mr. Poulson, in tenderness to the feelings of the gentlemen concerned.
- MR. SAFFMAN: Sir, perhaps whilst my learned friend is looking for documents to which he wishes to refer, especially as he is not going to use names, might I ask that wherever possible he identifies documents by dates, or in some other way, so that they can be referred to subsequently.
- MR. MUIR HUNTER: I will endeavour, as far as possible, to identify the document, but having regard to the fact that the papers are produced in completely chaotic order, I can do no more than that. I would like to know from what receptacles they came, and whether they are themselves an actual selection.
3747. Q. Well now, this is a bundle of lists of Christmas presents. For the benefit of Mr. Saffman I will read the heading. One list is called "Cheer" to Middlesbrough office 1966, and one column has "Turkeys" and the other column has "Drink", and of each column about half are either aldermen, or councillors, or local government officers. Would you look at this list? (Handed to witness) I do not wish you to refer to any name of the persons there shown. Do you remember that list, Mr. Poulson? A. No, sir, but it would be sent down from Middlesbrough.
3748. Q. And there would be, I suppose, a similar list for each office - that is the Middlesbrough list? A. No, sir.
3749. Q. No. Well, I am looking at another list dated 16th November, 1966, on the notepaper of the Edinburgh office, and this provides for bottles of whisky to be sent to borough surveyors, borough architects, hospital section chiefs, and so forth - so

that is one for Edinburgh. I ask you again, was there not a similar one for each office? A. No, sir. It was a request of those principals.

3750. Q. I beg your pardon? A. These are the requests of the principals. I mean, some of these people I don't even know, never met, that are on this list. I never have met them, never heard of them.
3751. Q. I show the witness the list I have just referred to.  
(Handed to witness) A. On this list I know of one person.
3752. Q. It was sent to your office for Mis McLeod's action apparently. Well now, how many offices did you have? A. Middlesbrough, Edinburgh, London.
3753. Q. About six? A. And Pontefract.
3754. Q. So there would be four of these? A. And Glasgow, but, of course, this has covered Glasgow.
3755. Q. And then we have a list of ladies to whom flowers are to be sent for Christmas 1966. There are three pages of those and they appear to be -- A. And there would be a lot of them personal friends.
3756. Q. The wife of a chief justice, the wife of an alderman, the wife of a senior National Health Service officer, and the mother-in-law of a senior officer; and so forth. Now, do you say that looking at those lists you only recognise one of the names? A. I only recognise on this list of Edinburgh only the first in No. 2; that is the only person I recognise. I haven't seen this list before.
3757. Q. Was it the custom of your offices, with your approval, to send presents to persons with whom your offices dealt? A. I think they did do at the request of some of the branches, sir, they must have done.
3758. Q. In what circumstances would Middlesbrough send a turkey to an alderman? A. I have no idea, sir; I don't know how they did it.
3759. Q. Let us take the Pontefract office where you yourself worked. Did they have a present list? A. A small one, sir, for personal friends. They are on here, and I am sure nobody could misunderstand this.
3760. Q. Assuming that a turkey cost £10 in 1966, that is £110 worth of turkeys here for one office? A. They wouldn't be that price either, sir.
3761. Q. Well then, you applied your mind, did you, to the size of the turkey bill? A. No, sir, your suggestion of a £10 turkey is just --

3762. Q. I meant £10 money? A. I thought you meant £10 money as well.
3763. Q. You would not send an alderman less than a £10 turkey, would you? A. But, sir, we didn't have such distinctions.
3764. Q. Are you saying that these lists are relating to gifts which were not sent? A. I don't know whether they were or they weren't, sir.
3765. Q. What are they doing in your custody in your home, from which you produced them? A. Look, sir, I have produced them. If I was not wishing to -- to keep anything back, I wouldn't have produced them, sir. I have given you everything, sir.
3766. Q. You keep on taking credit for not destroying documents, Mr. Poulson. A. Yes, because you have asked me if I have done previously, on many occasions.
3767. Q. I cannot pretend to have made a detailed survey of these files in the time available -- A. Well, I mean, if you go through this list it's just --
3768. Q. Would you undertake to the Court to go through these lists and to identify the status of the persons there referred to? A. Yes, sir.
3769. Q. "Alderman Blank", of course, meant something to Middlesbrough; he was perhaps chairman of the Housing Committee, but it does not mean anything to us, and I do not want to have to go chasing -- A. Well, if I can answer those -- I don't know whether they were aldermen out of office; I couldn't give you that detail.
3770. Q. Will you undertake to do your best? A. Yes, sir.
- MR. SAFFMAN: Seeing that I will be responsible to some extent, sir, to ensure that Mr. Poulson complies with his undertaking, may I ask my learned friend what, in fact, he wishes Mr. Poulson to go through and identify?
- MR. MUIR HUNTER: I want him to identify the persons whose names are given without their office. If Mr. Poulson does not know who "Alderman Blank" is, and what he does, then he will say so. I would have thought there is not an alderman or councillor in the northern corner of England that Mr. Poulson did not know as a friend.
- MR. SAFFMAN: I am sorry, sir, what I meant was this. My learned friend has referred to various lists. I appreciate that he only got them yesterday, and I appreciate that he has not had a chance to peruse them properly, and all I want to know is what, in fact, are the documents which Mr. Poulson is

undertaking to go through, so that he can identify the various people if possible. It is a matter of information, sir.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: Could I save time by suggesting that my learned friend looks at the lists and then we can have a word over the adjournment.

MR. SAFFMAN: I am obliged.

3771. MR. MUIR HUNTER: Mr. Poulson, one of the files you have produced shows that you were one of Her Majesty's General Commissioners of Income Tax; is that right? A. Yes, sir.

3772. Q. From 1965 until at least the 11th October, 1971? A. No, since the war.

3773. Q. So, did you sit -- A. I have ben on since 1947 or 48.

3774. Q. Did you sit as a General Commissioner of Income Tax?

A. Until probably two years ago.

3775. Q. Well, I have here a notice summoning you to a meeting of the Commissioners on the 20th October, 1971, which you initially accepted and then apologised for. A. Yes.

3776. Q. So may I take it that you remained a General Commissioner of Income Tax up to the date of your bankruptcy? A. I did do that.

3777. Q. And did you sit in judgment on your fellow taxpayers?

A. Very infrequently the last two years, sir.

3778. Q. Yes, at a time when you were dealing with other branches of Her Majesty's Commissioners for Taxes in your own affairs; is that right? In fact, at the time you owed Her Majesty £200,000 odd? A. No, sir. I had paid most of that back by that time - in fact, all of it if you look at the cash book. I referred to it yesterday.

3779. Q. But in January, 1970, you were visiting the Income Tax offices at Worthing -- A. I wasn't, sir.

3780. Q. In the person of your representatives, begging for time to pay and being threatened with bankruptcy, were you not? A. Yes, sir, but they were trying to clear up the figure. We find they hadn't even agreed a figure at that time. In fact, I didn't know there had been one agreed yet. But, at the same time, since that date there has been more paid in tax than that writ.

3781. Q. I am not really dealing with that question. A. I thought you were referring to that.

3782. Q. Did your colleagues and the office at which you sat as a General Commissioner know that you were a tax defaulter?

A. Did what?

3783. Q. You sat at the Pontefract Divisional Office of the General Commissioners of Income Tax as a General Commissioner --

MR. SAFFMAN: Sir, surely the Commissioners of Inland Revenue must have known the position with regard to Mr. Poulson and payment of his tax.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: I am not asking --

MR. SAFFMAN: A General Commissioner sits to determine questions of facts, not payment of tax, or the amount of tax as such. Whether or not Mr. Poulson was justified in sitting is surely a matter for either his own conscience, or for the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, but it cannot possibly be a matter which should be dealt with in an investigation under Section 15 of the Bankruptcy Act.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: I have not asked that question, my friend has put it into his client's mouth. I have not asked for justification, I asked a question of fact, whether Mr. Poulson's colleagues on the Income Tax Commission, and the office which operated it, knew that he was a tax defaulter, which is a question of fact which I ask the Court to direct the witness to answer.

MR. SAFFMAN: With the greatest respect, sir, the debtor is being asked what was in the minds or in the knowledge of other people. Surely, if a matter is relevant, then the question must be put to those other people. If my learned friend wishes to ask whether or not Mr. Poulson told them, then that is a question of fact which Mr. Poulson can answer, but he cannot say what other people knew or did not know.

MR. MUIR HUNTER: I will ask that question.

3784. Q. Did you tell them? A. Not to my colleagues, sir, but I was equally certain that the office must have known.

3785. Q. Yes. The office at 33, Ropergate, is the one from which your own tax affairs were managed, is it not? A. They would be at that time, but --- No, not at that time, they were at Reams House.

3786. Q. I beg your pardon? A. The accountant's section was at Reams House.

3787. Q. You mean the tax office? A. I am sorry, the tax office, I thought you meant -- The tax office has not been there for three or four years I should think. It is in the new building in Horsefair.

3788. Q. Now, I wish to turn to another matter, namely the position of



your wife in relation to your assets. Well now, I want to ask you some questions about your wife's shares in these companies. You have said that you gave your wife the shares in Construction Promotion, O.S.B. and I.T.C.S. as a gift; is that right? A. Correct, sir.

3789. Q. Now, we know, do we not, that Mrs. Poulson sold her Construction Promotion shares in February, 1971, for £10 a share, that is 1850 shares at £10 each. Who received that money? A. She did.
3790. Q. Do you know whether she still has it? A. No, I don't, sir. I think it's in a trust.
3791. Q. In a trust. Which trust is this? A. I don't know, sir, you will have to ask her, but I do know she did form a trust.
3792. Q. Well now, in February, 1971, you and your wife were not estranged, were you? A. February 1971. Well, I mean, the situation has not been easy, sir, over the last --
3793. Q. I ask the question because I want to know whether you are saying that after your wife sold this very valuable asset you do not know, and did not ask, what she did with it? A. Sir, as far as we were concerned, I never opened her letters and we never discussed this business, and her affairs were her own.
3794. Q. What is this trust to which you have alluded? A. I have no idea, sir; I just know there was one because she told me and showed me a document, and that was all, the day before she signed it.
3795. Q. Was this a trust in favour of your daughters? A. Yes, sir.
3796. Q. And this was set up without any reference to yourself? A. Yes, sir.
3797. Q. Was it done by Messrs. Joynson Hicks, do you know? A. Yes.
3798. Q. But you do not know anything of the terms of it? A. I do not, sir.
3799. Q. Do you know when it was set up? A. I cannot give you the date, no, sir. I told the Official Receiver's department or the Public Trustee's solicitor at the time it was done.
3800. Q. Do you remember in the beginning of 1968 when you were trying to move from Barclays Bank to another bank and approached Mr. Tozer, one of the chiefs of the National Provincial Bank? A. I was taken there by my accountant.
3801. Q. Yes. I have before me in a letter signed by Mr. Camm, a letter to Mr. Tozer dealing with a number of questions that arose at that interview. Do you remember the interview?

- A. No, sir, but I have seen that letter and there are a number of inaccuracies in it.
3802. Q. Well, in March of 1968, if you cast your mind back, to whom did the shares in Construction Promotion belong? A. My wife, sir.
3803. Q. And I.T.C.S? A. Yes.
3804. Q. I mean the ones that she had? A. Yes.
3805. Q. And D.S.B? A. Yes, sir.
3806. Q. And what about a company called Ovalgates Investments? A. Well, of course, she has had those right from the beginning.
3807. Q. Did you give those to her? A. Yes, sir.
3808. Q. When you speak of giving your wife shares, you mean, do you not, in each case that you provided the money with which they were bought? A. Yes, sir.
- MR. MUIR HUNTER: I am going to show the witness a file entitled "Personal - Barclays, National Provincial, Lloyds Bank", containing a letter of the 14th March, 1968. I only have two copies of this, your Honour, but I will hand up mine in a moment. (Handed to witness)
3809. Q. Do you see that letter? The letter that it should be open at, the 14th March, 1968, and it says in the second paragraph, "Mr. Poulson asked me to draw your attention to the amount of security which he has offered", and then he sets out a large number of items. Well now, you say that some of this letter is inaccurate? A. Well, obviously the first item is, as results have proved.
3810. Q. I see. I do not suppose you would say that Mr. Camm had deliberately mis-stated it. Is this not your figure, £100,000? A. None of this. No, I never mentioned such a figure.
3811. Q. Was this letter sent without your knowledge or consent? A. I didn't know this letter had been sent at the time, sir.
3812. Q. Although it was typed at your own office? A. Yes, but, I mean, it was typed by Miss McLeod, because she would be typing it as a confidential --
3813. Q. But do you say that Mr. Camm would write a serious policy letter to your proposed bank without your knowledge and approval of its contents? A. No, sir. I suppose what he did with this was that it was at the request of the accountant who dealt with it, and I am quite sure ---
- MR. SAFFMAN: I am sorry, sir, the microphone is too far away.

THE WITNESS: I am quite sure that the accountant directed this, but at the same time there are so many inaccuracies in it I can't see it.

3814. MR. MUIR HUNTER: I suggest to you, Mr. Poulson, that that is a complete untruth and that this letter represents your own statement through your confidential assistant to the bank you hoped to obtain an account with. A. I am sorry, but I can't agree with you, sir.

3815. Q. Why should you discard Mr. Camm; simply because he said things adverse to the interest of your wife? A. No, sir.

3816. Q. Let us look, shall we? A. He went because he didn't keep the books properly on Mr. Bolton's report.

3817. Q. I do not want to take up a lot of time with this letter which is not material to the question under consideration, but you say the first item (a), that "Manasseh" is worth £100,000, is not your figure? A. Definitely not, sir.

3818. Q. But you went round telling everybody, did you not, that "Manasseh" was worth that. It cost £60,000 to build, did it not? A. But it wasn't worth it, or else we should have got it, shouldn't we?

3819. Q. Well, I do not know, Mr. Poulson, you must not ask me. A. We got £31,000, as you know.

3820. Q. The next thing is about the bungalow. Do you disown that figure? A. Certainly at £15,000. That £15,000 is the bungalow and the two houses.

3821. Q. And Carleton Green, do you say that is a mistake? A. Just a minute, this is -- The bungalow is not -- I am sorry, we are getting mixed up here. The bungalow is opposite "Manasseh", and that was sold for £7,000, included in that, as your records can prove. And then Carleton Green, well, of course, this figure -- Mr. Saffman has the figures, what they realized -- and they were £3,000 each were the two prototype houses, and £11,000 the bungalow, where we are living at present.

3822. Q. Will you accept from me that the mortgage figure of £10,647 is, in fact, correct? I mean, we can check that? A. Yes, yes.

3823. Q. We will be dealing with Carleton Green rather later on. A. Then there is Batco.

3824. Q. Batco, that is the thing that became known as Reams House, is it not? A. That is right, sir, and that went for what -- ridiculous, £17,000.