

22nd November, 1985.

A.G. -v- James O'Brien

**BAILIFF:** O'Brien, we are going to sentence you in the same way as the Solicitor General has asked for. I don't know whether you appreciate this or not, but the fact is, it is difficult to exaggerate the amount of upset and loss and distress, and in some cases financial loss, which is caused to people whose cars are taken in a way that you took cars, and in some cases damaged them. It is still difficult to exaggerate it, and you ought to know that, because apparently your own family suffered in that way, and so these are serious offences. Secondly, no doubt because you were unfamiliar with the cars you were a danger on the roads when you drove some of these cars because you did not know how they worked, and you were a danger to other road users. So all together you were a menace when you took these cars, but at the same time we have had regard to the fact, as the Solicitor General said, that you were extremely co-operative. We accept that had it not been for your admissions many, if not the majority, of these charges could not have been brought, and we obviously have to take that into account, because if it had not been for that you would have been sentenced to a much longer sentence than you are going to be sentenced. So we are going to sentence you in the way that the Solicitor General asked, but I very much hope that you will think about the distress that you have caused to so many people, by taking their cars, and that you won't do it again, when once more you are at liberty, because if you should do it again then you will get a much longer sentence that you're going to get this time, but we take into account, as I have said, the fact that you were very cooperative and we know that that has not been easy for you as a result. Very well therefore, you are sentenced as follows: on count one nine months imprisonment, on counts two to twenty-four nine months imprisonment concurrent with each other and with count one, count twenty-five twenty-five pounds fine or one months imprisonment, counts twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight twenty pounds fine or one months imprisonment, counts twenty-nine thirty nine months imprisonment concurrent with each other, and count thirty-one a fine of twenty pounds or one months

imprisonment, all the default imprisonment to be concurrent with the nine months, so it makes a total of nine months imprisonment and fines of ninety-five pounds or four months imprisonment, which it to be concurrent. You are disqualified on each count, which carries a disqualification for a period of eighteen months all to be concurrent, and we also make the order that you must, if you have an English driving licence, that licence must be surrendered, and we make an order that it shall be surrendered now, whoever has charge of that licence at the present time.