

CHAPTER 5.

ARRESTED IN WANDSWORTH. "THE POULSON AFFAIR".

Why were Scotland Yard Officers, the officers later involved in the Poulson case, investigating events in Wandsworth?

Barry Payton ^{was on} eager, thrusting young professional lawyer, representing new wave thinking and attitudes to the structure of corporate management in Local Government. Qualified as a solicitor and as a barrister, already experienced in Local Government in Kensington, Andover, and Bradford, and having served as an elected member of the London County Council some years earlier ^{he} explains : "I took office on a Monday and received a telephone call on the Friday from the director of a large national hotel chain. "He asked me (in rather blunt terms), "What's going on at your Town Hall"?

"I take people as I find them," (so I replied in equally blunt terms) "I don't know. I've only been here five days. Tell me"!"

"He did. Afterwards I sat with my head in my hands for the rest of the afternoon, saying," "Payton, why does this have to happen to you?"

Barry Payton decided to ring the police.

"Shortly afterwards I got a visit from two officers from Scotland Yard's major crimes division. To this day I recall the introduction.

The Chief Inspector said - 'You know, Town Clerk, me and my mates for the past three years have been looking into allegations of corruption against policeman, and we're so glad to be off that, we're going to put love into this investigation."

Payton continues "This they proceeded to do, for fifteen months, I lasted for thirteen."

So we know from ^{"the} horses mouth that there were problems within the police at the time, and also that there was no lack of enthusiasm among the police officers called in to investigate the Wandsworth problems. We also know, as they did, that Poulson, independent of Sporie and I was working in the Borough at the time.

Barry Payton wrote,

"The odd thing was that the particular complaint which initiated everything was never the subject of the charges, because they could never prove it."

So the police were investigating in a Local Authority on the invitation of the Town Clerk, were pleased to be there, and committed to put LOVE into their inquiries!

Furthermore J.G.L. Poulson and his architects were already working in the Borough at the time. The

Royal Commission Report in paragraph 22 states

"Although Mr. Poulson had conducted his operations with impunity up to the time of his bankruptcy, he had certainly not avoided suspicion. There were a number of incidents which could, and perhaps should, have led to his earlier arrest."

"For example, in April 1970, following the conviction of certain officers of the city architects department at Bradford, an article about Mr. Poulson's Affairs appeared in the 'Bradford Telegraph and Argus'....."

Well, in 1968, police officers were working in Wandsworth, so was Mr. Poulson. T. Dan Smith was working with the Leader of the Wandsworth Council, on behalf of O.S.B. Could that have been one of the incidents which could and should have led to Poulson's arrest?. It certainly led to my arrest.

But the Royal Commission Report paragraph 23 goes further, "Also in 1970, the Chief Inspector of Audit brought to the attention of the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions a dossier which he had compiled of detailed and disturbing information about certain relations existing between Mr. Poulson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cunningham and other individuals."

Let us imagine the Police Officers working diligently and with LOVE on the Wandsworth investigations. I was questioned and confirmed that my relationship was with Alderman Sporle and he was involved in Poulson's O.S.B., and only in a minor way with the Borough Public Relations Contract. Meanwhile, in the office of the Chief Inspector of Audit, the staff are working like beavers to complete their dossier and, when they have completed it, rush off enthusiastically to the Department of Public Prosecutions and wait with eager anticipation. Poulson and Smith are in the trap! But No!

In January 1970 the Director of Public Prosecutions decided to arrest me along with certain others. Apart from ^{myself,} they were all concerned with building contracts and related matters in Wandsworth. I was charged with a single conspiracy connected with a Public Relations Contract. Was I a political prisoner?

Towards the end of May 1970, John G. L. Poulson, in a fit of depression had decided to end his life, I know that awful feeling, I felt the same way when I was told by a reporter that I was going to be arrested 'next week', that was way back in January, 1970.

But all was not gloom. The Tories won the June 1970 General Election and, surprise of surprises, Reginald Maudling, comrade-in-arms of at least two of those named in ^{the} Dossier prepared by the Director of Public Prosecutions, and then being considered in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, was appointed as Home Secretary.

Let us hasten back to the Royal Commission Report for further enlightenment, Paragraph 23, "This Dossier (which we have seen) was considered over a period of some nine months within the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions in consultation with the audit inspectorate and the police.

91

The Department decided that, "in the absence of access to bank accounts, further investigations were unlikely to be fruitful."

We can only accept from Lord Salmon's Royal Commission that had Poulson not gone bankrupt he would have escaped prosecution, that the matter would have ended with the shelving of the dossier. I was still awaiting my Wandsworth trial.

Two relevant questions spring to The Police had access to my Bank Accounts and indeed *were fortuitously presented with information from the Dan Smith P.R. cash book*, courtesy of my *defence* solicitor in April 1970. At least the investigations on the "Dossier" could have been taken further so far as John G. L. Poulson relationships with me were concerned. The lack of access to Bank accounts *did not apply in their* circumstance.

More importantly, the police in the "Dossier" *discussions* were the Metropolitan Police, then under the political control of . . . Home Secretary Reginald Maudling.

The logic of my argument is clear and *ir*refutable. Paragraph 33 of the Report of the Select Committee on Conduct of members, page xvii reads :

"Mr. Maudling's resignation letter. On 18th July, 1972 the Prime Minister (Mr. Heath) announced to the House that, arising from Mr. Poulson's public examination in bankruptcy, there was to be a police investigation into Mr. Poulson's activities. (App 65). He also announced that since Mr. Maudling was responsible for the Metropolitan Police it had been agreed that it would not be appropriate for him to continue as Home Secretary and that he had resigned (col.402/3)."

92
89

It is abundantly clear that when Mr. Maudling took the post as Home Secretary in June 1970, the Metropolitan Police, with the Director of Public Prosecutions, were considering the contents of the "Dossier" in which Poulson's affairs were a major factor and decided that, in the absence of Bank Accounts, they could take no further action.

Are we asked to believe that the involvement of the Metropolitan Police in 1972 was somehow different to their involvement in 1970? That if the Dossier had led to the prosecution of Poulson, instead of its being shelved, that it would have been in order for Reginald Maudling as Home Secretary, to be party to that decision, involving as it did the Metropolitan Police.? Certainly the constitutional position in that situation was totally untenable. Why did it happen?

It is my submission that the Poulson Affair should have begun with the "Dossier" in 1970 using the evidence produced by the diligent and concerned officers of the various offices of the Central Government investigative agencies, as the basis of securing any necessary investigative powers. That the action needed to complete the investigation was not taken must surely be seen as a great source of frustration for those 'insiders' who were left to 'leak information to Private Eye' in order to bring matters to a head.

The initial decision to limit the prosecution of the Poulson people to me, and to charge me on a non-Poulson charge in Wandsworth, must have been a 'politically' motivated decision. It led to a decade of investigation, trial and punishment for me. NON-BUILDING

Certainly the Poulson Affair began for me when I was first questioned in November 1968 by Detective Superintendent Mees and Detective Sergeant Monk, in the Lord's View London flat of my former accountant and Managing Director, Bill Kirkup.

Although I did not know it, the police were then engaged in extensive investigations in matters concerning the London Borough of Wandsworth. They had been called in by the Town Clerk, Barry Payton Q.C., soon after he took over his position in the Borough and in response to a telephone call he had received from a well known hotelier.

The Leader of the Wandsworth Council at the time was Alderman Sydney Sporle, and the allegations being investigated related to building contracts and professional appointments in the Borough, alleged to involve corrupt practices. A company formed by Bill Kirkup, although attributed to me, had been awarded a contract in Wandsworth to carry out public relations work for the Borough and it was asserted that the police were enquiring into the contract, among other things.

There was no involvement between Sporle and I which related to the Wandsworth public relations contract. But as a result of my meeting him I had offered him, and he had accepted, a part time assignment to work on our behalf for O.S.B. in the London area which excluded work in his own Borough.

When I discussed with the police the relationship between myself, Sporle and Wandsworth Borough, I referred to the Poulson connection and later I wrote and told Superintendent Mees that I had set up a company in which Sporle and his wife shared the equity with me. The purposes of the company being the development of commercial public relations contracts in London.

Sydney Sporle was a man full of energy, with considerable drive and ability and he quickly secured a number of commercial public relations contracts.

94

He also introduced me to Mr. Wilkinson the Chairman of Telefusion Rentals. As a result, I began in the Euston Tavern a series of discussions related to my joining a bid in which Telefusion were seeking to secure the Yorkshire Television Franchise. The potential importance of those discussions initiated by Sydney Sporle became obvious when the Telefusion group won the franchise and later went on to form an association with Tyne Tees Television. This was to lead to the formation of the highly successful Trident T.V. Company which until recently controlled both Yorkshire and Tyne Tees Television Companies.

I underline this particular development because it places Sydney Sporle into his real perspective as a man with powerful commercial contact, an above-the-board operator, rather than the small-time corrupt councillor the Crown made him appear.

My discussion with Telefusion ended only because I became Chairman of another Group, Trans York Ltd., which mounted a powerful but unsuccessful bid for the Yorkshire Franchise. I and others later secured a substantial shareholding in Tyne Tees Television and were appointed to the Board of that Company. William Kirkup was up to his neck in a company, Fleet Press Services Ltd., which secured the Wandsworth public relations contract. Had it not been for him, there would have been no such company as Fleet Press Services Ltd., and no such public relations contract. I never received a single penny out of the activities of the London office or from that Wandsworth public relations contract. Yet Kirkup was never charged in the matter and I was.

Within days of my questioning by Superintendent Mees, I attended a private meeting in London with Reginald Maudling M.P. He questioned me first of all about my Poulson connection and indicated that "all was not financially well." He then asked about my position in the Wandsworth Public Relations contract remarking, "that he had heard on the grapevine that I had problems."

I told Maudling the details of my relationship with Poulson of which he was unaware, and that I was increasingly concerned about Poulson's attitude of ruthless and irresponsible condemnation of people whom I valued highly. I told him that my association with Poulson would not last much longer. On Wandsworth, I re-assured him that I was not worried, and he confirmed that I was almost certainly 'clear' there.

Early in January 1969, John Poulson telephoned me to ask if I would be present at an urgent meeting with Sir Bernard Kenyon, then Clerk to the West Yorkshire County Council, and himself. Poulson arranged a prior meeting with me explaining that because of possible repercussions arising from Wandsworth, Sir Bernard wanted to end my association with O.S.B., he explained that Ropergate would agree to a re-negotiation of our other business agreements. I made no mention to them of my meeting with Maudling as he, Maudling, had suggested that we 'forget that we ever met.'

The meeting with Sir Bernard was short and to the point, and it concluded by my agreeing a draft letter setting out that "O.S.B. had never existed" so far as I was concerned. The letter was typed and signed, and I had a feeling of relief as I put my copy in my brief case. I went on to speak to Sir Bernard about his own position in the Poulson Companies and the problems of the declaration of his own interests. I also discussed with him the positions of Alderman Blackburn, Dews and Roebuck, who he had learned, were in one way or another on the Ropergate payroll. The discussion was frank and we both expressed some concern that J.G.L. Poulson showed little concern for such matters as declarations of interest. He promised to raise the issues with Poulson at their next meeting.

96
93

I made the point to him, that in ~~some~~ months, J.G.L. Poulson had recommended the appointment of three West Riding *Aldermen and Councillors* known to Sir Bernard, and without any resistance to the appointments on my part, their costs had been added to Confersbrook's payment from Ropergate. . What worried me about this new Poulson ~~friend~~ was that within weeks new "wonder men" were written off by him in the most derisory manner. In the case of Alderman Newby, an ex Lord Mayor of Bradford, J. G.L. Poulson had written me a most indiscreet letter referring to Newby as 'a mouse'. Alderman Newby was completely honest man, about which more later.

I returned home from that O.S.B. ~~meeting~~ *and* for the first time since my police questioning *felt* that whatever had been going wrong in my business association with John Poulson, ~~the~~ meeting had begun to *resolve matters*. I dictated a note of the meeting and handed my secretary my copy of the O.S.B. letter. She noticed that it had been dated 10th October 1967. The letter was signed by me in 1969.

I immediately telephone *Poulson* J.G. ~~and~~ told him, that as my interest in O.S.B. was publically known and officially declared and, as I had recently been active at an exhibition on behalf of O.S.B., I could see no good reason in presenting me with a letter which was incorrectly dated. I requested that the letter be dated 31st March, 1969 and *after heated discussion*. *I* finally signed a further letter including that date.

Following the ending of my association with O.S.B., it had been agreed *with* Bill Sales, acting for J.G.L. Poulson in O.S.B., that any business developed *between us* would still be paid under the terms of the original agreement *between us*.

It was an agreement which was never honoured.

O.S.B. Ltd. had been developed ^{by me} arising from an ^{existing relationship} ~~existing relationship~~ between Alex Richardson, Poulson's Senior Architect in Scotland ^{and} Braby's of Glasgow. As I understood the Alex Richardson proposals, Braby's were concerned to utilise factory space and under used steel pressing plant, were of the opinion, as a result of some preliminary work they had carried out, that a steel framed house may be one of the answers to part of that problem.

Alex Richardson asked for my assistance in sounding out the market, which I willingly ^{agreed} and together we visited a number of Scottish Authorities. ^{He wanted to find} out their reaction to a building method which, while allowing then complete flexibility in design and method of construction, also had the possibility of providing jobs in ^{the steel industry} industry which was in need of

Reactions were favourable and, additionally, it appeared that the system had other possible applications for schools and other buildings. It appeared to have some advantages over the Hertfordshire Clasp System which had been developed and successfully built all over Britain.

Once I was sure that O.S.B. could have a successful future, I asked Bill Kirkup to register the company in order to protect the name.

It very quickly became obvious, ^{to me} that we did not have the finance to market the system, and so John G.L. Poulson stepped in and agreed to finance the Company in order to get the system operative. He at once ignored the work done by Braby and others, with whom Alex Richardson and I had been discussing, with the intention of creating a permanent and reliable group of suppliers.

Bill Kirkup was angry at the method of approach made to us by John G.L. Poulson's Solicitors and was of the opinion that we should insist that all our own development costs should be fully recovered before we transferred O.S.B. Ltd., to Poulson. I argued that it was better for us to get ^{the} houses constructed so that we could benefit from our selling fee which was included in each house built under the system.

The advantage of O.S.B. to Poulson's architectural practice was obvious. It meant, that as architectural consultants to O.S.B., we could highlight their role when ever we held an exhibition.

I was always impressed by the professional integrity of all but one of the Poulson professional partners, and

I never saw any other than a completely correct attitude employed by any one of the partners in presentations made by us on behalf of O.S.B.

Mr. Poulson's book, 'The Price', shows that his memory of the formation and development of O.S.B., together with his history of the company, can be discounted as mostly fictitious. The police evidence confirms my history up to the time O.S.B. was taken over by Poulson. O.S.B. became another unsuccessful Poulson Company. Mr. Poulson's confused explanations extend to the investigation of the Swedish Skarne System. There are many glaring and obvious errors of fact and interpretation in 'The Price', which themselves reflect the kind of dangerous half truths and innuendoes which Mr. Poulson made against former associates, including myself, and evidenced in Poulson's correspondence publicised in both the bankruptcy and many Court proceedings. The untruths and half truths are a clear indication that Mr. Poulson, a decade after many of the events to which he refers occurred, has learned little from his experiences.

The most remarkable part of a remarkable affair came with Poulson's Bankruptcy.

Mr. Poulson filed his Bankruptcy Petition on the 4th January, 1972.

Mr. Poulson's book references to Muir Hunter Q.C. are less than kind. Muir Hunter Q. C., was a determined examiner who did a remarkable job for the clients who paid him.

He put the fear of death into me. Had the *Senior Members* been involved in the discussions about the 'Dossier', it would never have been written *as it was* "had it not been for Poulson's Bankruptcy.....he would still have been carrying on....."

Corinna Adams writing in the "New Statesman" in March 1973 asked "Is there, after all, a parliamentary file" among the documents involved in the Poulson Bankruptcy affair?

Or is it - as the authorities would seem to have us believe - a mere figment of someone's imagination." The conviction that such a file does indeed exist, somewhere among those 1,347 different bundles of paper - and that Muir Hunter Q.C. was about to open it - brought at least 50 reporters (not to mention cameramen and bystanders) to Wakefield County Court last Monday. Rumour piled upon rumour, name upon name.....

Corinna Adams continues.

"Then came the anti-climax. Mr. Hunter (for Mr. Poulson's creditors) gave a long - and at first puzzling - preamble, about the importance of accuracy, the inadequacy of the microphones provided in the court, and so on. He ^ebelieved this had led to the unfortunate way in which he had been reported as saying (at the end of January) that next time he would be producing the 'parliamentary file'., which, he said, was a misunderstanding which lead to a lot of speculation.

100
96

Indeed it did. But what he had in fact said was 'the Beirut file'. 'I will spell that' said Mr. Hunter helpfully 'R'E'I'R'U'E'."

"Odd, really, the words do not sound remotely similar, even under bad acoustic conditions. Many of the reporters who had been present then were still convinced they had heard the word 'parliamentary'. Moreover, several newspapers - for instance the Sun, Express and Telegraph - used the phrase 'the parliamentary file' and 'the Beirut file' when telling their readers what Mr. Hunter had said he would discuss at the next hearing... "

"Where do I get my money back?" asked one disgruntled visitor, when the proceedings closed down after a mere hour and a half, rather than the full day everyone had expected.

If there ever was a Parliamentary file it must have been; put on the same shelf as the Dossier!

The constraints imposed on the further investigation of the Dossier were swept to one side. From the situation where no useful purpose could be served without access to Bank Accounts, even the investigators were left wondering what was happening.

Application was made to the Registrar by Her Majesties Government by the Attorney General and the Department of Trade, who, in the words of Mr. Hunter" "desire an indefinite adjournment on grounds of which I have, so far, failed sufficiently to understand."

My opinion in matters of Bankruptcy procedure based on Muir Hunter's head line making performances would have led me to believe that there was not much about Bankruptcy hearing procedures that he would normally have failed to understand!

Mr. Saffman, appearing for Mr. Poulson, referred to the announcement by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on July 18th "It wasn't made clear what was to be investigated, and, indeed, if I might respectfully say so, the announcement by the Prime Minister was couched in the vaguest of terms.

Mr. Hunter was to express rather more than mild surprise at the application. In his experience of twenty-eight years at the Bar such an application had never been made before, he claimed.

"It is perhaps singular that a debtor in such a notorious bankruptcy case, who collapsed while being examined and is now applying not to be further examined in public, should have his application supported by the Secretary of State for Trade and industry, and by the Attorney General.

This Country is outstanding in the matter of bankruptcy law - the public have a right to hear the debtor and every single creditor has the power to question him.

Why has this great scandal or alleged scandal burst on this Country and its public.

Having set the Country on fire and attracted the attention measured by the representatives of the Press today, it is now desired that none of these matters should be pursued in public."

The applications were rejected.

A mystery!

Was it part of the legitimate business of Central Government, for the First Minister to take special powers, and for Departments of State to intervene in a bankruptcy case, however notorious?

How different when the dilligent staff of the national audit department presented their "Dossier" to the Director of Public Prosecutions. No decision to conduct inquiries or to seek special powers to allow further inquiries. Only a decision that no further action could have proved to be fruitful.

Perhaps when I met Reggie Maudling in 1968 he was more concerned to find out what I knew about his relations with Poulson and specially O.S.B.!! I knew little, only what I learned on the few private and business occasions when I met him. I only knew of his involvements with the Poulson Companies through Sir Bernard Kenyon and the less reliable reports of John Poulson.

The frantic search for information once the bankruptcy proceedings began contrasted sharply with the apparent disinterest of senior Crown Officers in the 'Dossier' investigations. In *Marron's* - claim *for my Wandsworth costs, he* submitted as evidence of expense the transporting of... a vast amount of correspondence and memoranda was produced to us by the defendent, Smith, this memoranda filled a tea chest, and we were compelled to go through every item, lest there were documents essential to the Defence - in consequence of this exercise we came across a bundle of receipts signed by the Co-Defendent, Sporle-- and there was further correspondence between Smith/O.S.B. Ltd./Poulson/Maudling/Marron and Co., Solicitors."

Let me underline my points in order to substantiate my conclusions.

The police officers of the serious crimes division knew that Sydney Sporle and I were associated on work for Poulson's O.S.B. Ltd., through their investigations in Wandsworth at the time.

The Chief Inspector of Audit brought a Dossier of detailed and disturbing information concerning Poulson, Smith and Cunningham to the Director of Public Prosecutions in the early months of 1970.

In January, 1970 I was arrested and charged on a conspiracy charge in Wandsworth but a charge unconnected with Poulson or his companies. My Bank Accounts and statements of income were available for examination by the police. The reason given for proceeding no further with the examination of the matters arising from the "Dossier" was 'no useful purpose could be served without access to Bank Accounts.'

Mr. Marron, my defence solicitor broke his solicitor/client confidence and took to the police the cash book appropriate to the Poulson payments made to Dan Smith Public Relations in which the monthly payments to Sydney Sporle had been recorded by Bill Kirkup my Managing Director.

It also included all of the Ropergate payments to Dan Smith P.R., and their distribution.

Mr. Maudling became Home Secretary in June, 1970.

In 1976, Lord Salmon in his Royal Commission Report concludes in paragraph 24:

"We doubt whether Mr. Poulson would ever have been prosecuted but for his bankruptcy and his habit of meticulously preserving copies of everything he wrote or was written to him....."

Surely I am entitled to conclude that at the stage when the Poulson ^{Dossier} was put on the shelf there would be those in the various departments who would have concluded that the Poulson Affair was POLITICAL. That J.G.L. Poulson and some others were going to 'get away' with it. Barry Payton did say that the policeman he met was going to put 'LOVE' into his investigation.

Why did I believe that by using my association with Poulson's O.S.B. and Ropergate ^{Services}, I was likely to be able to mount a valid defence against the corruption charge I was facing?

There were two possible explanations, the most obvious was that I was being deliberately charged on a ^{phony} charge. This theory was repeatedly put to me by reporters and others at the time, who were increasingly unhappy and well informed. If that had been the case, ^{and} I agreed that it had to be included in the range of possibilities, then it was certainly outside my knowledge.

The worry of that period, the shock of learning through a reporter the news that I was going to be arrested, ^{my} political destruction and subsequent resignations, were not soft political options for me. ^{They were a series} of unforgettable shocks, ^{for} my family, friends and, of course, myself.

Another coincidence of which I was only too well aware was that the Home Secretary at the time of my arrest was Jim Callaghan and he was also the National Treasurer of the Labour Party. The Chairman of the Labour Party Finance Committee was.... Alderman Andrew Cunningham... named in the Dossier....

John J. L. Poulson's former business partner was the Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling. Small wonder the idea was repeatedly put to me that I was the fall guy of the Poulson, Smith, Cunningham trio!

Certainly there was no rush to comfort from any of my formerly close political friends. I saw neither Poulson or Cunningham by their design until they too had been somewhat reluctantly drawn into the 'Affair'.

Blat out

My police questioning in November 1968 had been a disturbing experience. I was upset when I met Maudling in 1968 and he confirmed that I 'could be in trouble in Wandsworth' and that Poulson had financial problems that were worrying him.

I was also annoyed when early in 1969 I agreed to sign away my association with O.S.B. Ltd., because Sir Bernard Kenyon and Poulson did not want to suffer any repercussions, if anything happened to me in Wandsworth. I had no reason to believe at that time that anything would happen to me. Certainly I had been given no indication that the Auditor General was more concerned about Poulson's Affairs than the police were concerned about mine.

I naively believed that the policy, which I had laid down for my staff when working for Poulson, was above criticism and legally and morally correct. I have since had plenty of time to reflect on the Wandsworth Trial, and the worries in the minds of those who knew the truth and were concerned about what I might say in the witness box.

The Crown must have seen me as a naive guy presenting the prosecution, through my defence Solicitor and from the witness box, with vital information in words and documents relating to the shelved Poulson "Dossier".

In July 1971 I was found NOT GUILTY only ten minutes after the Jury retired. Waiting even ten minutes for a Jury to decide INNOCENCE OR GUILT is a hard experience, especially when you are locked up on your own in a lonely court cell.

The countless worrying rumours and off the record hints of Poulson's impending Bankruptcy and finally the unfriendly whisper by one of the Police Officers as I left the Old Bailey, convinced me that I was only at the end of phase one of my Poulson Affair.

I was greatly helped during ^{my} Old Bailey Wandsworth Trial by a friendly ^{court usher} I learned, by appearing in many different Courts, that such attitudes depend on the individual and not the system. I recall even ten years later how the understanding by that ^{Usher} of my nervous ^{apprehension} was a priceless quality in such ^{such understanding} circumstances. happened so infrequently that it is worth recording.

Following my acquittal one of my political friends offered me a job in his Northampton based electrical company and although I still retained an interest in my own Newcastle based decorating company ^{but,}

as I was so well known, I could only be an embarrassment to my hard working, long serving, loyal staff, and so I willingly moved to Northampton and would have settled there permanently had events turned out differently.