

Crown asks two to five for teacher in sex case

By BERNIE BENNETT
Telegram Staff Writer

The Crown is seeking a prison sentence of two to five years for a 39-year-old school teacher who has been convicted in Newfoundland Supreme Court on charges of physically, indecently and sexually assaulting a former student.

Raymond Garrett Stanford was tried by judge alone and convicted Feb. 28 by Mr. Justice Raymond Halley and pre-sentence arguments were heard Thursday.

Mr. Justice Halley postponed sentencing until Monday morning after hearing submissions by Crown prosecutor Tom Mills and defence lawyer Steve Marshall.

The Crown first called St. John's psychiatrist Dr. John Angel to the stand. He said he has been treating the complainant since last May when charges were laid against Mr. Stanford who was suspended from his job as teacher at St. John Bosco school on Shea Heights.

The complainant, who is now 22 and a fourth-year psychology student at Memorial University, says he suffers from anxiety because of having to go through the court process, Dr. Angel said.

Even more serious, Dr. Angel said, is the long-term affect because of the lengthy period of abuse he endured, allegedly from 1979 to 1986.

He said the complainant has feelings of despair and depression, feels different than other people and is uncomfortable in the company of others.

He said the young man suffers from panic disorder.

Dr. Angel said he could be treating the complainant for up to another year after the court process settles down.

Mr. Mills said the defendant has a good family background, was respected as a teacher and respected in the community because of his involvement in coaching and organizing sports activities for the youth of Shea Heights.

He said there was no evidence of a psychological disorder but

there was also no evidence of any remorse shown by the accused.

Mr. Mills cited several court cases in Newfoundland in which priests and school teachers were convicted in similar cases, some more serious, others not so serious. The sentences ranged from a low of two years and a high of five years.

He asked Mr. Justice Halley to consider a sentence in that range.

Mr. Marshall challenged the testimony of Dr. Angel and asked what effect Mr. Stanford's actions had on the complainant.

He said the complainant obtained his high school diploma, even though the records show he missed a total of 90 school days in Grades 11 and 12. In addition, he said, the young man is close to graduating from Memorial University and appears to be doing well for himself.

Mr. Marshall asked the judge to weigh that evidence against the evidence of Dr. Angel.

He said the sexual assaults his client was convicted of were acts involving grinding acts over and over with clothing on and didn't involve anal intercourse or oral sex acts.

He said the sexual acts in this case were less of a serious nature than some of the case law examples entered by the Crown prosecutor.

He said the Newfoundland Supreme Court of Appeal has given sentences ranging from three months to two years in similar cases.

Mr. Marshall asked that the sentences on each of the three charges against Mr. Stanford run concurrently.

1. CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
- D. Heart attack
- E. Nausea

4-8

A.

5

B.

1

C.

6

D.

4