

Andrew Bright appeared on my behalf before the Newcastle Court when all charges except the resist arrest were withdrawn by the D.P.P. and was awarded sixteen thousand dollars in cost. No-one needed to give evidence including myself. "I was never given the chance to prove myself innocent."

Andrew Bright introduced me to a barrister Terry Healey. Terry said to me, "John I have been following your case and I am disgusted with the police in this matter and I don't care if it costs me out of my own pocket, I wish to defend you on the matter. I know you are the victim here and I will do anything in my power to see that you get justice. I know that your life is in danger over this matter, but so is mine! Most loyal people would refuse to take on the government, the police force and the judges. But Terry Healey did that! I can say to anyone that finds themselves on the wrong side of law that barrister Terry Healey is the man. Terry is one of my most personal friends, and to me, that's saying something!

The Magistrate Judge Chicken dismissed the charge of resist arrest. But when it came time to pay Terry \$69,000 court cost, even though a special prosecutor who was brought up from Sydney did not object to the costs. The Magistrate over-ruled him saying; "Even though I have dismissed the charge of resist arrest, and the charges of drug supply were dropped by the D.P.P. Thornton has not proved his innocence". "So on that basis I am not going to award costs." "I know you're out of pocket Terry but thanks again for your help and support, I hope that the Civil Court renews your faith in the justice system!"

The fact that the news papers never covered the condition I was in hospital in. The fact that throughout this matter I was never treated like a victim bothered me. The day the resist arrest charges were

dismissed, I walked to the Newcastle Herald building; I picked up the phone at the front door and asked to speak to Ian Kirkwood. Ian did a report in the Newcastle Herald about my book release. When I spoke to Ian I said; "Ian its John Thornton here you covered my book release for me!" Ian: "I know who you are John!" I said: "I just had all charges dismissed against me and I just wanted to talk to you about my side of everything and everything that's happened to me." Ian: "I knew you were an ex crim and I covered your book release for you. But then you got yourself mixed up in these drug charges, I don't want anything to do with you!" And hung up.

I felt hurt and betrayed! Then I thought: he is supposed to be a reporter, how can he be a reporter and not want to report on both sides of the stories of what had happened to me! I say this to you Ian; if you're a report you are not doing your job when you become the judge, jury and executioner. Now judge you as the most prejudiced person I have ever met in my life. How you can be a reported baffles me. During the hearing the Magistrate said: "I know the newspapers pay police for stories, names and addresses that are printed in the news." "But I don't know what can be done to stop it!" Do you Ian pay police for your stories, names and addresses? Are you a police based news reporter that only reports on what they think to be crime? Though when it comes time to talk about corruption you're not interested in talking to a victim!