

SAYS RECEIPTS WERE FALSE

An allegation that St. George's Terrace accountant E. Robert Maslen obtained false receipts from a bankrupt's creditors was made in the Bankruptcy Court today.

Accusing Maslen of having interfered with the course of justice by attempting to deceive the Court, Mr. N. Good, of the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's Office, moved that Maslen be committed to prison for contempt of Court.

Mr. Good said his motion was the outcome of investigations by the Commonwealth Investigation Branch following the hearing of a bankruptcy case on December 23.

On that date, after hearing evidence on financial transactions with Maslen, Mr. Justice Wolff asked that the Commonwealth Investigation Department look into Maslen's books.

The evidence had been called in the hearing of an application for discharge from bankruptcy by Samuel Mackomel, of Marine Parade, Cottesloe.

Mackomel had stated that Maslen was acting for him. He had paid Maslen a total of £199.

Mr. Good said that the receipts in question were in respect of payments made by Maslen to the creditors, Frederick Charles Washing and Benjamin Joseph Surman.

For Maslen, it was maintained that he bought Mackomel's debt to Washing for £70 and the debt

that he bought Mackomel's debt to Washing for £70 and the debt to Surman for £10.

He then relied on himself being the assignee and owner of those debts and regarded Washing and Surman as having no further interest in them.

He handed the receipts to Mrs. Mackomel and received £110 from her.

Subsequently, he understood that the Court directed that Mackomel would not be discharged from bankruptcy until 20/ in the £1 had been paid.

He offered both Washing and Surman the balance of the money required to make up 20/ in the £1.

But as he had previously bought their debts, he explained that he was entitled to this balance. They signed receipts for balances representing a total payment of 20/ in the £1.

(PROCEEDING)

[Before Mr. Justice Wolff. Mr. N. Good, of the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's Office, for the Official Receiver; Messrs. H. V. Rilly and T. A. Hartrey for Masien.]