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UNIDENTIFIED (sp) (transcript)

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UNIDENTIFIED: But there was no attempt at cover up. Priests who are truly guilty of such actions must be stopped.

REPORTER: January, 1994. Eugene LaRoche (sp) the bishop of the archdiocese of Alexandria-Cornwall acknowledged that the Church paid a former altar boy \$32,000. Malcolm McDonald represented a priest accused of sexual assault. The agreement included a gag order and a clause that the complainant drop the criminal case. This agreement led to a charge of obstruction of justice against McDonald. In September 1995 he pleaded guilty. The defence asked for an absolute discharge. The Crown and judge agreed. Marvin Hubberman teaches ethics and the law at Osgoode Hall Law School. Hubberman says obstruction of justice against a lawyer is a rare and very serious offence. It's tantamount, he says, to a doctor breaking the Hippocratic Oath.

MARVIN HUBBERMAN: For lawyers the Rason Etre (sp) of the legal profession is to promote justice and the rule of law. And if a lawyer does neither of that but rather perverts the course of justice or obstructs the course of justice that would be an extremely serious matter which would go to the heart of that, of the reason for that profession.

REPORTER: After Malcolm McDonald pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice the Law Society of Upper Canada reviewed his case. A five person authorization committee decided not to recommend disciplinary action. When CBC Radio went to The Law Society we were told the reasons for this decision are not public information. McDonald went back to his law practice in Cornwall. He retired three months later in December /95. Since then the priest he represented Father Charlie McDonald has been charged with more than a dozen sexual offenses. The lawyer who represented the Church in the deal, Jacque LeDuc, now faces 28 charges of sexual abuse involving boys. Next week Malcolm McDonald makes his first appearance in court to face three sex related charges. Christopher Grosskirth, CBC News, Cornwall.

(National)

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ISSUES - CORRESP

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