SENTENCE:

[redacted]: Well, this was a very serious incident. It appears to me that a greatly outnumbered group of people, who had been peacefully attending Saint Patrick's Hall in Thomas Street, were in the event, at the very least, confronted by a much larger crowd of people and that there was a very vicious assault on the deceased, which resulted in his death.

Because of the state of the evidence I was unable to link the accused with that and direct assault but nonetheless by his gestures over the prone figure of Mr Hamill he associated himself with the kind of attack that had been made, and he was then involved in fighting with the police. Obviously the evidence all goes to show that the police involvement was to prevent further attacks on the patrons from Saint Patrick's Hall, so it was part of a sectarian confrontation and attempts by him to continue the attack.

I would regard this type of case as a very serious case indeed and I regard it as an entirely different kind of case from that with which the Lord Chief Justice dealt, where a situation arose completely unexpectedl and a number of people got involved, mainly through the influence of drink. This is the kind of offence that in my view must be dealt with as a very serious matter by the courts and I regard the appropriate sentence as one of 4 years imprisonment.