

Jim Sinclair, Jim Durocher, and Ron Laliberte:

Métis Political Activist Interviews (April 17, 2004)

Tape 1

**Start Clip: 3:22:43.01**

**RON LALIBERTE:** Was people like, you mentioned Howard Adams, was Brady and Norris involved in any of that to any extent?

**(Video Tape: 3:22.48.30) JIM SINCLAIR:** It was prior, but they were always talked about because they were just the people we actually took over from. Because like I said the North was separate from the South and you know, when I got up North, there was people like Vital Morin, of course, and the young people like Durocher and Jim Favel and Jonas Favel, who were starting to take over.

**JIM DUROCHER:** And Pierre, Pierre Carriere from Cumberland House.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Like Pierre Carriere, but you know and there's Rod Bishop, Rod, you know, to this day I respect Rod for what he done and if it wasn't for Rod we would never be where we are. You know, he, he contributed even though he, him and I had continuous arguments about what direction. But when you talk about community people who, who I really had a lot of respect was, there should be statues to him up North because people like Robby Fontaine, who stood up to the church, stood up to the RCMP and stood up to, to the Hudson's Bay. And I remember the priest calling him a crazy old man in the meeting, you know, in the actual meeting calling him that and that, that man I had so much respect for. And really worked hard to help our people, really worked hard. So, it took a lot...

**JIM DUROCHER:** And Traveller, you know Traveller...

**(Video Tape: 3:23.58.12) JIM SINCLAIR:** Traveller, guys who were, you know, guys who were drunks, who were considered as drunks in the community became some of our best leaders. You know, people like Clarence Trotchie. Clarence I have so much respect for Clarence Trotchie what he done in his day, it'll take decades of somebody else to accomplish what he done in a few short years in Saskatoon before his death. You know, guys that could, and were real half-breeds and would sit down and tell stories about police and drunks and this and that, you know because we all had our boozing problem. Like I, I've been sober for 44 years now, prior to 1960, but I knew what it was like to be an alcoholic and, you know, I think government loved us that way. You know because, we always gave welfare workers a job. We always made sure of their jobs and we always made sure when we were drinking, if I went for welfare cheque when I was drinking, got it, sobered up, couldn't get it. So they tried to draw you back to booze. So, they, they you know we went through all this whole stuff and like Jimmy says, you know, the Northern leadership, I think, you know, we got to go far beyond Ile a la Crosse as well, and go to places like Cumberland House because we organize throughout the North, even to place, little places like Camsell Portage, outside of, outside of Uranium City. We had strong leadership and people who could speak up.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Jane **Ogier (Unknown Spelling)** and those guys.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** What's that lady's name that lived in there?

**JIM DUROCHER:** Mary Jane **Kasian (Unknown Spelling)**.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** No, that was, this lady was Jermaine Powder.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Jermaine Powder yep.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** From places like, places like...

**JIM DUROCHER:** Those are ladies I'm talking about that used to make fish and they used to make, they used to make dried fish and dried meat and whenever we had a demonstration they, they'd come and feed us, you know, they'd come and feed the...

**End Clip: 3:25:43.07**