

Mike Mercredi, Frank Tomkins, Ron Laliberte

Métis Political Activist Interviews (Jan 24, 25, 2004)

Tape 1

Start Time: 12:03:25.08

Mike Mercredi: Now, your question was, I think, you asked me who has influenced my political, a lot of people. And like I said, I think, admire a particular one was a little too generous, but I certainly respected an awful lot of people within the movement. In the '70s I respected them and there are a number of good political leaders today that need our support. And like all politicians, the people that elect them, people that vote for them, are the ones that should say, "Yes you are doing a good job" or "No you are not doing a good job." If you are not doing a good job, you get out and put somebody else in there. But I think you know we need the, the voting members of the Métis Nation, need to recognize that that is our obligation. So many times you talk to people about politics and they'll say, "I don't know anything about politics. I don't want to hear anything about politics. The politicians are all crooked." We're talking about federal politics or provincial politics or Métis politics. Somebody's always got something to say about the no good, they're all, that they're all getting the best for themselves and I don't have anything to do with them. Well as soon as you do that you hand over more power to these people that perhaps are no good. You know we need to take a greater interest, we need to make sure that we do get out and vote. We need to shoot our mouth off. As well, we also need to listen

closely to the views of other people. And, you know, you have a view, I have a view, you have a view Frank. The three of us get together and we create perhaps a fourth perspective on something that might even be better, so, you know, the term "shoot your mouth off" is a, might be a little bit harsh.....

End Time: 12:05:21.18