

Mike Mercredi, Frank Tomkins, Ron Laliberte  
Métis Political Activist Interviews (Jan 24, 25, 2004)

Tape 2

**Start Time: 14:28:55.01**

**(Video Time: 14:28.55.01) Ron Laliberte:** Do you see any changes in the political climate after the '60s or, you know, when you think about the '70s? Again, Mike you were involved with, you know, the '70s and I'm not sure how much experience you had prior to that but to look at that transition from the '60s to the '70s and, and forward. Any comments on that? And, and changes you've seen, I mean, certainly you must be able to look back a little bit, Frank, and see that, you know, the, the sort of objectives and the style of, of people like Brady and Norris and, and your father and then look at their tactics and then take a look at the '60s, you know, was a little more radical, protests and, you know, from there was there any changes after that that you seen in anyway?

**(Video Time: 14:29.38.07) Mike Mercredi:** I couldn't contribute to any of that because I didn't get out of the Army until '74, and it was 1979 when I went to, to La Ronge, so I, I don't have any opinion about how the, the politicians... **(Inaudible)** ...in the '60s. It certainly didn't affect us in the Army. But Frank will probably have more thoughts about that.

**(Video Time: 14:30.04.27) Frank Tomkins:** Well, I got involved with the Métis in about '74 so about your time that you, you had. One of the first things that I did, you know, with my background and what I had learned

from, from the three guys when they were talking about, then the constitution and, and they, the rights of Métis people and there was some talk about, you know, with the White Paper and all. So what I did was I organized an Aboriginal rights committee, an Aboriginal rights committee. And I knew quite a number of people at the time already that I knew were concerned and so I asked them if they would be a part of Aboriginal rights committee and they said sure. And one of them was a Treaty, Treaty Indian. He was a good friend of mine, he was involved with FSI, Walter Deiter was his name. And our first meeting was in the nun's retreat so as there'd be nobody could spy on us, you know, what we had planned on doing. And one of the things that we decided, that under no condition would anybody ever go to Ottawa to talk about Aboriginal rights with any of the Ministers unless there was a delegation of at least three people for what they could police one another. So that was fine so there was a meeting arranged with Alan MacEachen, he was the Deputy Prime Minister and arrangements were made, you know, and in order to get a meeting with a high profile minister like that you have to know the subject matter, who's going to be in attendance, and the works and the date, the whole thing, so as the Minister could be briefed in how to respond to you. That's the whole game.

**End Time: 14:32:08.09**