

Nora Cummings, Peter Bishop, and Ron Laliberte:
Métis Political Activist Interviews (Feb 28, 29, 2004)

Tape 1

Start Time: 2:49.24.11

Peter Bishop: And anyway the people would say [**speaking Cree and/or French**]. Yes, my father, you are right. That they were going to vote Liberal. The reason for that was they didn't want to be excommunicated.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Peter Bishop: They were afraid if they voted against the Liberal party they wouldn't be able to go to church, or receive Holy Communion, or get married in church, or have a funeral in church, or buried in a cemetery by a priest.

Ron Laliberte: Right.

(Video Time: 2:50.00.24) Peter Bishop: That is the whole reason why the church had such a strong influence on those people. They never even knew what their candidate looked like. They might have seen a picture of him. Didn't know his name. But the, the priest said vote liberal. So I remember one time in the late '60s I was a scrutineer. I had to stand at the back of the hall and a lot of the old people that came in they wanted to vote Liberal. They had to ask [**speaking Cree and/or French**]. Which is the Liberal? So we'd have to point the names out and there would be about three or four names. This is Liberal. There was almost times I was tempted to point to the CCF candidate. They didn't know any better.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Peter Bishop: That's how it was.

Ron Laliberte: It's interesting on what...

Ron Laliberte: What the patronage was.

Peter Bishop: That's how much control...

Ron Laliberte: Sure.

Peter Bishop: The church had over the Liberal party.

(Video Time: 2:51.06.24) Ron Laliberte: You know, what kind of patronage did the church get from the Liberals for doing that? You know bringing the Métis vote to the Liberal party. And there's a long history of that in...

Peter Bishop: Right

Ron Laliberte: Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Nora Cummings: Yeah.

Ron Laliberte: Until the CCF moved into the north.

Peter Bishop: Right.

Ron Laliberte: That's really interesting stuff.

End Time: 2:51.20.09