

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

Tape 1

Start Time: 2:59.38.14

Peter Bishop: And there was another time. This was very impressive to me. He received a letter from Tommy Douglas, who was the Premier then, and he showed it to me and I was impressed oh my. Gold border and this comes from the Premier. And in there it said "Mr. Bishop I would like to make you an offer. We need a Justice of the Peace for Green Lake and I'm just wondering if you are interested. That offer is open to you." My Dad wrote a letter back to him. Says "I'm sorry Premier Douglas. I appreciate your kind words and I appreciate you offering me a job such as this but Mr. Premier I've been a strong advocate for my people for a long, long time. I've always helped my people out in any way that I could here. And unfortunately I'm going to have to turn it down because I do not wish to be placed in a position to sit in judgment of my people."

Ron Laliberte: Yes.

Peter Bishop: And possibly have to send them to jail.

Ron Laliberte: Right.

Peter Bishop: So he turned it down. I imagine it could have paid a fairly good wage.

Ron Laliberte: Sure.

Peter Bishop: But we got along good. The community got along good.

Whenever anybody, including the Liberals, they had nobody to turn to. Do you think the priest would help him? Not on your life. Whenever they needed assistance it was called social aid. They'd have to come and see Dad

[speaks Cree or Michif] Can you help me? I need help for my family. I'd like to get some assistance from Mr. Elliott. Jim Elliott was the whole government in Green Lake. He was the LID inspector - local improvements districts.

End Time: 3:02.10.01