

Jim Sinclair, Jim Durocher, and Ron Laliberte:

Métis Political Activist Interviews (April 17, 2004)

Tape 1

**Start Clip: 4:26.18.08**

**RON LALIBERTE:** When you, you think about people like Harry Daniels and Clem Chartier, certainly were involved at that time, and they must have played a part, you know, in all that debate.

**(Video Tape: 4:26.27.25) JIM SINCLAIR:** Clem, Clem at that time was more of an academic. He done, he done a lot of the research and stuff for us. And he done a lot of the, a lot of the, the papers for us to use at Constitutional meetings. Kept that, that part of it alive and had his following too and it was a fairly militant following. He had, he had people who would criticize us very much when we made the wrong move. One of the very strongest people in the, afraid for people like me to sell-out, you know, which I don't blame at the time. And I think that was, that was voiced eh.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Voiced absolutely.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Sinclair is going to sell-out on us sooner or later. And I had to be careful about that and I remember having people behind me every time I'd go to a meeting - don't you dare sell out. And I said "It never was my intention to sell-out."

**RON LALIBERTE:** What do they mean by sell-out exactly?

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Well sell-out was to give into government, accept something that was unacceptable. In fact the unacceptable at that time was

to, to walk out of the Constitution without getting land. The right to land or the right to self-determination, that was, that was kind of a sell-out.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Not, not pushing the rights issues, you know.

**(Video Tape: 4:27.36.28) JIM SINCLAIR:** And, I think we can talk about that later on which is the Harry was a very strong supporter of the Métis and the Constitution, although Harry, I don't know why, and I can't understand to this day, never became a Métis leader. You know, should have been. I don't know why he was never accepted as a Métis leader in, in, he was, with the, always with the Native Council of Canada.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Eastern based.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Eastern based organization and had good support from the East and was always, you know, was always with the group that was in a sense fighting with us, you know. Fighting with us in terms of our...

**(Video Tape: 4:28.16.23) RON LALIBERTE:** Well that's kind of, that is interesting. I never thought of it that way but you know Harry's, what is he just outside of Regina? You know, born and raised there. Yeah it's a good point, why didn't he become a leader of one of the Métis organizations?

**JIM SINCLAIR:** He, he, he ran a couple of times.

**RON LALIBERTE:** Yeah, he certainly did.

**JIM DUROCHER:** He was vice president of Alberta I think one time with Stan.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Yeah, vice president. Well he would have become president that time but what happened is he had a campaign going against Stan

Daniels and Stan Daniels was an old smart, not stupid. Stan Daniels had a lot of money in those days and Harry, during Harry's campaign he sent him to Europe to be ambassador for the Métis to Europe. And while Harry...

**JIM DUROCHER:** While Harry was gone he called an election. Harry came back thirty days after and says, "What happened?"

**JIM SINCLAIR:** But you know, in defence of Harry, he was always a strong supporter of Métis rights. He had a showmanship way of doing things but he did his share in terms of Canada's recognition of the Métis.

**RON LALIBERTE:** Oh yes, absolutely.

**(Video Tape: 4:29.17.00) JIM SINCLAIR:** And I think when we look at history, if you look at from that point he was certainly a Métis activist in terms of Métis rights. But if you look at it, you know, differently with the organization he belonged to and the position they took was against us. And it was hard for Harry to come out in support of this without being in, you know, getting into trouble with those people that he had led for a time and then was out and then back in. So it, it, it, it became something that we, we really had a, you know, had some problems with, but at the same time the Métis movement was strong enough that, I think people all recognized that it wasn't going to die. Wasn't going to die. Never. And I think you know when you get into talking about the Constitution and all of that...

**JIM DUROCHER:** (Speak in Cree/Michif)

**RON LALIBERTE:** Sorry?

**JIM DUROCHER:** (Speaks in Cree/Michif), after dinner I mean.

**End Clip: 4:30:16.16**