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TONY WOOD

Tony Wood was an employee of the Saskatchewan government
and worked in the northern part of the province. He was
associated with the school for prospectors and was a friend of
Malcolm Norris and Jim Brady.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- School for prospectors.
- Norris and Brady: their aspirations for the north and for
native people.
- Norris and Brady: a contrast in styles.
- Northern elections and the role of political parties.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Tony Wood is a long-time government employee in northern
Saskatchewan and worked with Brady and Norris from 1952 to
their deaths. In the interview he talks about the prospectors'
school established by Norris and its importance. Indicated
some of the ideas Norris had for the north that are now
implemented. Contrasts Brady and Norris in their approaches to

native people, in arguments in their personalities.

INTERVIEW:

Murray: I'm speaking to Tony Wood of La Ronge. Tony, you've been with the government in northern Saskatchewan since the early fifties, and you became acquainted with both Malcolm Norris and Jim Brady. Could you tell me a bit about Malcolm's involvement in the government and what his job was, and what his contribution was?

Tony: Well, his contribution was considerable when you think of the various sort of things he worked in, and the various jobs he had with the government. And he was instrumental in starting the prospectors' school, which now is continued. The school I'm running is a continuation of what Malcolm Norris started. And, of course, I believe that Jim Brady had some input into that. And in those days it was a prospectors' school and the individuals had to go their own routes, and they were not given too much assistance from the government - other than the canoe and equipment and this sort of thing. Whereas now it's enlarged into wages and a three month job or better for the summer, you see.

Murray: Did Malcolm actually start the program? Was it his idea? Do you know that?

Tony: I would say, as far as I know, that it was Malcolm Norris's idea.

Murray: What would be the benefit to the people who took the course? Prospecting, to the layman, at least to me, is a pretty risky sort of thing. How much benefit do you think people have gotten out of that plan and the present plan?

Tony: Well, it's very considerable. After I left the government and went out to B.C., and was in Edmonton for some time, I would meet people from Stanley Mission out in British Columbia. Very lonely, but working, and only working on account of having gone to the prospectors' school and was prospecting out in British Columbia. And no doubt there was considerable amounts from Stanley Mission and other points, to Eastern Canada as well.

Murray: What kind of jobs would they get after they'd been trained at this school?

Tony: Well, it was mostly prospecting in the field which they seemed to love and like very much.

Murray: This would be an individual thing, they wouldn't be working for the companies or would they?

Tony: Yes, they would be working for the mining company.

Murray: I see. So some would be just prospecting on their own, would that be possible? Or would it most likely be...?

Tony: It would most likely be with companies, with various companies. People who had met them here in Saskatchewan and then liked their work and what they were doing and took them out with them out to various places - B.C. and so on.

Murray: Would they receive a pretty good pay for that kind of work?

Tony: Yes, it was good pay for the pay that was being paid at that time. It was very good pay, but it was only some seasonal work.

Murray: What was Malcolm's role in the department at the time? Was he just running the prospectors' school or was he always coming up with ideas, that sort of thing? I'm trying to get a feeling for what he contributed beyond just his particular job.

Tony: Oh, no. Malcolm had many, many ideas about many things and always spoke out on them.

Murray: Can you remember any particular projects or policies he thought should be followed by the government?

Tony: Not right offhand, I can't. (Break in tape) He always looked ahead and he would now be just another three or four steps on, if he was still living, no doubt.

Murray: So he was ahead of his time in terms of what he felt should be done in the mineral field, eh?

Tony: Yes, this is right, yeah.

Murray: Can you think of any other ideas, particularly in the mineral field, that he had and performed?

Tony: Well, it's quite hard to think of them now. It's quite difficult to think of all those things now. If I got talking to some of the old-timers and different people who had had discussions with him, no doubt a lot of these would come up and we would add them up amongst ourselves to bring out all the many things he had and the ideas he had.

Murray: Malcolm was a socialist. Did he ever try and apply his views on socialism to what he thought should be done in the mining field? Or were the two things separate?

Tony: This would be difficult for me to say.

Murray: He didn't talk to you about that that much, eh?

Tony: No. Well, he would be discussing amongst in a group at a party, but it's quite some time now since Malcolm's been

dead, you see. And to just walk in here this morning...

Murray: Right, try and pull it out of your head.

Tony: And pull it out of your head, you know, it's quite difficult, you see.

Murray: Was there ever any talk of the government actually getting into mining and doing the mining itself? Or owning the mines, at that time? By people in the north.

Tony: Oh, yes. Malcolm was for this and discussed this, you know, the government should be getting into it. Oh yeah, definitely. Yeah, Malcolm...

Murray: And Brady as well?

Tony: Oh yes, and Brady as well, yes, yes.

Murray: What about their attitude towards the other industries in the north, the forest industry? Did they have similar views to all resources about the government being involved?

Tony: Yes, the government and the people involved. That was their way and their method throughout. Oh yes, definitely.

Murray: What do you recall of Brady's contribution to the prospectors' plan or was it an incidental part of Brady's work?

Tony: Well, I think it was incidental in most cases. But he was very good with people who he'd be out with, or younger people he would go out with, in explaining geology and mineral occurrences and this type of thing. Brady, Brady was quite good this way.

Murray: He was good as a communicator?

Tony: Yes, this is right, yeah.

Murray: Although he didn't speak Cree.

Tony: No, he didn't speak Cree, but he had a awful lot of patience though, more patience than Malcolm Norris did, you see. And Malcolm had to be up and going steady.

Murray: You had to keep pace with him or he got impatient with you?

Tony: This is right, this is right, you see. And where Malcolm would get more impatient, Brady would have more patience.

Murray: What was the result of that impatience? Did that bother people at all with Malcolm? Did he put people off at all, do you think?

Tony: Yes, yes, I think he did. I think, yes, Malcolm did that. And it was because things wasn't going fast enough in the right direction. And it would make Malcolm very impatient and, of course, this put people off, you see. Whereas with Brady, Brady had more patience and he would tend to talk to people longer and explain more, explain the situation more, and why it was going that way, and why it was going slow. And in some cases he would want things to go slower. Because he understood to change people fast, too fast, caused too much disruption and the people tend to lose interest, you see.

Murray: So you think maybe Brady actually had more realistic understanding of the native people in that sense?

Tony: Yes, I would say. Well, this is difficult. Malcolm understood the native people, but he was so far ahead of most native people and white people himself, that he was so far ahead of them in thought and in action, that this would annoy him and it seemed to create an upset within himself.

Murray: A frustrated man?

Tony: Frustrated, yes. He was so frustrated in trying to accomplish many things he wanted to accomplish and to get people to go along with the idea. And, of course, many things he wanted to accomplish are being done today, and at that time, if they had been done, it would have made Malcolm probably the most happiest person in the world.

Murray: What kinds of things are happening today that he would have liked to have seen then?

Tony: Well, like just in this prospectors' program. After the school we continue on paying them wages and put them out in the field for the summer. And anything they found is staked on behalf of the prospector and the government of Saskatchewan. And these are the type of things Malcolm had suggested many, many years ago.

Murray: I wonder why they were not implemented at that time. Can you speculate about that at all?

Tony: No. This is a very, I'd say, a very touchy subject.

Murray: Right. It was a political decision.

Tony: A political decision, yes. And at that time I was just a conservation officer and very low on the rung.

Murray: So that those decisions would be made considerably up the ladder somewhere?

Tony: Up the ladder, yes, this is right.

Murray: Did Malcolm constantly put that kind of pressure on those people up on the top of the ladder to do those sort of things? Was that part of his activity?

Tony: Yes, I would say that was part of his activity, yes.

Murray: He was always pushing those...?

Tony: Yes, always pushing those, yes.

Murray: What were some of the other things? You mentioned more than one thing that is happening now that Malcolm had suggested. Can you think of other areas?

Tony: Well, you see the crown corporation is formed now. Malcolm would have suggested this years ago, that the government should get into the mining and get involved with the companies as well as mining strictly on their own, if necessary - and also in with the mining companies.

Murray: So this is something that he was suggesting?

Tony: Yes, this is right. At least he thought it was a step in the right direction, which is more or less proven to be so today.

Murray: You mentioned before we started the interview that there used to be lots of social get-togethers where there was all kinds of talk. Can you describe La Ronge in those early years, what it was like in terms of those kind of get-togethers and what sorts of things would be talked about?

Tony: Well, you see, at that time the village was very, very much smaller, and if the weather was bad for several days and aircraft didn't get out, you'd have caught up on your work. There was time for leisure in the evening and to sit around and discuss with people, whereas today the place is much larger, the road goes north. If you don't get things out by aircraft, you can at least drive it north 270 miles. Whereas those sort of things... this was the end of the road.

Murray: So if the weather was bad you were grounded?

Tony: Yes. If the weather was bad you were not only grounded, in many cases there was shortage on aircraft and you had to wait your turn until the aircraft got back. And if the aircraft in some way got called on a fire, you could cancel that day out and say, "Well, we'll go tomorrow." And, of course, that evening you had some time to sit around and talk to people.

Murray: What kinds of things were talked about in those days? Were people of like minds or were there lots of arguments and debates?

Tony: Oh, there was arguments and debates going on, for and against and this sort of thing, you see.

Murray: And Malcolm took part in all those, eh?

Tony: Oh, yes. Malcolm always looked for an intelligent someplace he could talk intelligently with, or get into an argument with somebody over something at any time.

Murray: He liked to argue?

Tony: Oh yes, he liked to argue and he liked to talk about his ideas as well as listen to other people.

Murray: How would you characterize Jim Brady in that same sense?

Tony: Well, Jim really wasn't as excitable, but Jim Brady was very, very intelligent. And you would see them together discussing things and talking things over.

Murray: But Brady didn't like to argue as much as Malcolm, would that be true? Or did he like to talk, too?

Tony: Well, he had a different method, and a different approach at putting across his idea. He would back an idea up with all thoughts and detail, whereas Malcolm would bring out one or two very sharply and say, "Well..."

Murray: That's all it needs.

Tony: That's all it needs, you see.

Murray: So Brady was more methodical and detailed than Malcolm when they argued.

Tony: Yes. I believe when they argued, but quieter spoken and had a different approach. This is kind of difficult to explain. I'm not saying that Malcolm was always in hot water or anything like this, but you knew, if you was going to argue with Malcolm he would put down one, two, three, definite points and say, "Well, what about these?"

Murray: And he'd force you to answer those.

Tony: Yes, and you had to answer those immediately, you see. Whereas Jim Brady would do it maybe in a longer detailed method, you see. And it's really difficult to...

Murray: Would it be that Brady wouldn't always be demanding that you answer those points? Would that be a difference?

Tony: No, I wouldn't say that. Brady wanted answers as well, but he would point out to you that, in something he would point out to you that these points hadn't, they weren't fulfilled there, you see, these points since there was always the discussion on the treaty rights and the Hudson's Bay Company and all these treaties that was made years ago. Well,

for instance, Malcolm would say, "What about all the land the CP got for the railroad?" Whereas Jim Brady would point out, "Well, when the CP come north, see, in order to get them to put the railroad through, they was given this land. They haven't backed down on those deals, and I don't think we should back down, you know, on the rights for the native people."

Murray: A much calmer approach.

Tony: Yes, a calmer approach, you see. Where Malcolm would say, "What about this, this, this, that?"

Murray: Which would you say, or maybe you can't judge this, who was the more effective in their arguments, as far as influencing people, do you think?

Tony: Probably Brady on the local level, but when you get to speaking to groups and going out, probably Malcolm was. Malcolm was heard on T.V. and radio where Brady didn't do this as much, you see. Of course, maybe it was because Brady didn't get the opportunity, or was never asked to do, but on the local level, Brady would probably go further with the people in a community than Malcolm would, you see.

Murray: Yeah. Would Malcolm be more influential with white people and Brady more with native people? Is that a fair assessment?

Tony: Yes, I think that would be. Yes, I think that would be.

Murray: I've heard it said that Jim was more of a native person in some ways than Malcolm. Does that make sense to you?

Tony: Yes, that, yes, yes, yes, that does. That does make more sense, you see. But not only more native. Once you got to know Brady, you knew some of the things he didn't like and that would get him riled up or get him mad, and you didn't discuss those because you know they were genuine problems he had. And as long as you didn't bring up in a discussion, or argue with him about those, you could go on to many, many things that Jim was very, very, very intelligent about. He could forecast many things that were the outcomes of...

Murray: He was an analyzer.

Tony: Yes.

Murray: What were some of the things that you said might have annoyed him, or the things he wouldn't talk about?

Tony: Well, some of the subtle ways in, I believe it's subtle ways, in discrimination and this type of thing that really bothered Brady, I know, when you talked to him. So I wouldn't bring up discrimination. I wouldn't discuss this with him too much in, at any point, because I knew it would

eventually rile him, get him all riled up and he'd get off on a tangent when his intelligence was so more wisely used than bothering about what people had done. His intelligence for the future of the people, and future of many things was far more, oh, to be of far more use. You know.

Murray: Than getting him upset about things that can't be solved immediately.

Tony: Than worrying about small, small things that would get him all riled up about, you see. It was far better off to get Brady on something else, some other subjects, because it was a waste of Brady's intelligence, you see. As you have pointed out, you know, this is correct - absolutely.

Murray: What about Malcolm in discussing things? Were there things that you wouldn't talk to Malcolm about? Or did he approach things differently in that area?

Tony: Well, Malcolm didn't discriminate against no one. Because I know, I can honestly say. I remember getting into an argument with him once, and really getting after Malcolm, but that was because he was sort of arguing about a dock here in town here. And he was going to close the road off and the only person it would hurt was McIver McAuley. And I pointed out that this was one of his blood brothers and that to do this to McIver McAuley would certainly cause him an awful problem. You see, and he was crossing here down the old lake where he can get his trucks up and McIver was running the fish plant and if he went around the other way - if Malcolm cut him off - he'd have to go up that hill, and lots of times he got stuck and spun out on the hill, you see. And I got quite mad at Malcolm. I pointed all this out and Malcolm just steamed out of the office, and of course, he went over to his cabin. And at ten o'clock I went over and I said to him, "Malcolm," I said, "look, are you buying coffee or me buying coffee?" And, of course, Malcolm kind of laughed, you know. He said, "You're just an Indian lover." (laughs) You see.

Murray: And so he changed his mind, did he?

Tony: Oh. But let's face it, he may have been just pulling my leg and seeing how far I wanted to go. I don't know.

Murray: Did he do that sort of thing?

Tony: Oh yes, really, subtly underneath. You'd never know that, you see.

Murray: (laughs)

Tony: Oh, you'd never know that about Malcolm, you see, because Malcolm...

Murray: He'd be testing you, but you wouldn't...

Tony: You wouldn't know it until after you'd been sucked in, see. So we went down for coffee and, of course, I went to pay for the coffee and Malcolm had paid for it. So I told him that wasn't fair at all, just a little argument, you see. But sometimes we'd get into a little argument but it never lasted with us, because he knew basically that I, you know, well I try to never discriminate against them. I always tried to treat other people as I would wish to be treated myself. But at least I think I am. And as long as you did this with Malcolm or Brady, you're okay. But when you started, you know...

Murray: They had no tolerance for discrimination at all?

Tony: No. This is right, this is right. And yet they would fully agree with you that, you know, the reason I don't visit Jones's place because they want all the, you know, all the animals and woods and the leaves is right in the centre of the floor, and I don't want it. But it gives you no excuse not to treat Mr. and Mrs. Jones, or anybody, you see... It's just that you have different ideas so that's why we stay in each others, you know... But to discriminate and say that because they are a certain nationality they are, you know, not people to associate with, this is wrong, you see.

Murray: Let's get a bit into Jim and Malcolm's political life. They were both, of course, very interested in organizing native people, and from what other people I've talked to understand, one of the things they tried to do was to instill pride back into native people. Can you recall that aspect of their talks, or discussions that you had with them?

Tony: Oh, yes this is right, this is right, yeah. Some years ago here there was a - well, I would say it's not over eighty, ninety years ago - there was an Indian chief who lived in Pelican and, of course, nobody knew who he was or what he was; but they had dug up the grave and there was wire wound through his ears, you see. And what used to bother Brady and myself and Malcolm Norris was to see here was an Indian chief who went all through the pain of having this copper wire braided all through his ears and what a proud man he must have been. And here in a period of eighty years, and when you see the Little Hills Indian walk and he is hanging his head and would hardly look out of the corner of his eye at you where

has that proud gone to, you see. But at the same time I had discussed with Brady, I said, "Well look, Jim, what hurts me is the Indians on this side of the river, the Kitsakie reserve, make jokes about the Little Hills as they walk through there," and I said, "this doesn't help either." And Brady would agree with this, you see. But they had learned this discrimination practice from the white forebears.

Murray: What kind of things did they try and do to get people to have that pride? Did they talk to people...?

Tony: Oh, yeah. Well, these talks used to go on with Brady steady, you know, day after day, night after night, in many places. Brady would sometimes be on these talks and as long as he had a few dollars left he didn't look for any job, because this is what he was doing.

Murray: So he preferred to be out talking to people?

Tony: This is right. And Jim was terrific on a survey, he could do a survey and not miss a detail, and bring many, many, many results in front of you - over and beyond what they... He'd tell you where the guy had been, what he'd done, mostly trapping or fishing, how many nets he had, how many traps he had, and the area he covered in trapping and this type of thing. And as Jim pointed out in real detail, when you pick up a firefighter and you take firefighting with you, why don't you consider where he fishes and how many nets he has? What is it knocking down your fish productions? Why take a good, a real good fisherman with many nets when you can take another fellow that doesn't have any nets?

Murray: So he's always thinking about every aspect of it?

Tony: Oh, every aspect on it in detail, you see. Jim was pretty good at this.

Murray: What was their activity in the CCF? Do you remember that at all? Were they active in the party?

Tony: Yeah, I believe they were quite active. Yes, I believe they were quite active, you know, and worked quite hard at it, you know.

Murray: Was there a large number of people in the CCF at that time or was it quite a small group in La Ronge?

Tony: No, it was always a very small group in La Ronge, very small group. And of course, with the native in many places it was something new and something different, and the native people are very hard to change in their ways and what have you.

Murray: So most of the people would be whites in the CCF, was that true or...?

Tony: Yes, this is right, yes. Yes, this is definitely right.

Murray: What were the elections like in the years that you were here? Do you recall some aspects of the elections? It was mostly the CCF versus the Liberals, I guess.

Tony: Yes, this is right, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Murray: What were the campaigns like in those days?

Tony: Well, the campaign is quite difficult, you see,

because a lot of the settlements that you'd go into, as I remember it, and as I see it now in some cases, you go into a settlement but half of the settlement is out commercial fishing on some island, away up Reindeer Lake in case of Southend, Reindeer. In case of Stony Rapids or Black Lake they're all out doing something on some other lake, Riou Lake. Or in case of Wollaston Road half of them's over on another, Hatchett Lake, fishing, and half is over here. And it's very difficult to campaign in a deal like this, you see. It's also difficult to run an election here, you see. Where the ballot boxes should be?

Murray: Do you think native people at that time voted on the basis of the different ideas of the parties, or was it more a personality thing? How do you think native people viewed the election in those days?

Tony: Well, even to today I don't think - there's hundreds, and hundreds of native people do not know the difference between municipal, provincial, and federal politics. Even right today. And I mean, there's a lot of our white society that doesn't even know the difference. So if you don't know the difference, whatever the voting, it's only for something you might like on T.V., eh.

Murray: Right. It's not a political decision they're making?

Tony: It's not a decision on the future direction of their life. It's on some image.

Murray: So that elections didn't really play an important role in the people's minds in those days, or today?

Tony: Well, I think to a point it does play a sort of an important role, but is it the right importance that what elections are really for, on the subjects and on the direction they really wish to go?

Murray: Right.

Tony: Would you agree with what I've just said about many people and who and how they vote?

Murray: Oh, this is my experience as well. That's, of course, in just the last few years. But I would suspect that if it's true now, it was probably true then as well.

Tony: Yes, you see.

Murray: Did Brady or Norris ever talk about that problem, or did they see that as a problem?

Tony: Oh, Brady did. Brady, this is why he was still steady educating people, steady. Brady would be walking, and walking steady day and night and sitting and talking and talking and talking and talking to people. Brady could see this very, very clear. Well I believe Malcolm saw it too, but just, Malcolm

did not have time for that. He was too busy reading all the magazines, taking all the clippings, finding out what was going on all over the world. Where Brady has seen the root of the problem, was starting from the root of the problem to educate the people in knowing where they wanted to go and what they stood for, and what they voted for, what they wished to vote for.

Murray: So Jim spent a lot of time in people's cabins talking?

Tony: Oh, this is absolutely correct, yes.

Murray: Where Malcolm was busier with his job.

Tony: With his job and criticizing world opinion and many, many, many, and picking all the faults out of some people doing a survey that only done the survey for only one purpose, or one aspect of it, where it should have involved many things, you see.

Murray: Right. Malcolm was an outspoken person. Did he create any resentment or hostility among people in the department against him?

Tony: I would say, possibly, yes. I would say, possibly, yes. Because, well, he likely irked them. His facts were true, his figures were true in most, most all instances, you see. And this is what really, really got people uptight.

Murray: Because he was right most of the time.

Tony: Right.

Murray: Were there ever any people who would like to have seen Malcolm out of the department? Or who might have tried to get him out?

Tony: Well, I felt very bad when the government changed, and a gentleman from the mineral resources branch asked me to Prince Albert. And when I went in, he told me I was being transferred to Uranium City, and he also said, "Would you come with me." And he walked up and fired Malcolm Norris, or told Malcolm Norris he was being retired. In other words...

Murray: Fired.

Tony: In other words he was being fired in the hospital and I thought it was in very, very, very bad taste that the man could do that.

Murray: According to Allan Quandt he wasn't actually fired when he was in the hospital. That this didn't happen. But that story has gotten around.

Tony: Well, I went with that gentleman to that hospital and

he was saying he was being retired. And what was done after that to hold him off, or what anything, what corners had been turned, I don't know, but I went with that gentleman. And, of course, I guess he'd been instructed to do just that.

Murray: And this was just a few months before Malcolm would have retired?

Tony: This possibly could have been so, and they retired him a little early. Well, I don't think it was worth a few months to retire a man early, you know, you see.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Jim Brady as intellectual and friend.
- Strategies for the north as perceived by Brady and Norris.
- Reactions to racial discrimination.
- Norris's relations with native people.
- The Prospectors' Assistance Plan and the school for prospectors.

Murray: Tony, in our earlier conversation you mentioned that Brady had a different approach to talking to people and felt that if you changed things too fast for the native people that you would disrupt their lives and they would lose interest. Did Brady express that feeling and maybe you could expand on that a bit, how he felt about that?

Tony: Well, I shouldn't really probably say that, in too fast, but Brady always impressed that you must do the ground-work and the footwork before you make changes - involve the people and discuss it with them. Whereas probably Malcolm, in his hurry, could see the goal where he wanted to get, would overlook some of this, or at least that is my impression. Where Brady would do the footwork and after Brady done the footwork, it was very difficult to change those people's minds. (Inaudible) was an outcast once Brady had been there and

discussed his policy, his principles, and what he lived by, and what have you. When Brady got through talking with them, this may take several visits or what have you, but after Brady had done his footwork, you know...

Murray: It was sold.

Tony: It was not only sold, it was an impression left for a lifetime. Oh yes, oh yes.

Murray: Did he talk about that sort of principle with you, or is that just something you observed?

Tony: No. I observed this from Brady and he even sold, he sold me. Now, I shouldn't say he sold me. I was that way

leaning before him. But the thing is he would bring up things that I had never thought about and would point things out. Well, for instance, people would come here, sociologists (and one from Africa) and all of who had been discussing things, and would drop in the hotel and ask Mr. Howden, "Have you seen Mr. Brady?" "You mean the Jim Brady in the little cabin?" "Yes, that's him." "Native?" "Yes, that's him." And they would be astounded to think this doctor in sociology and so on would be wanting to come and see such a poor individual in La Ronge. But they had never taken the time to discuss evening after evening that I had, and didn't know the man. You understand?

Murray: He was just another Indian to them.

Tony: To them he was another Indian, but to me he was something I took so many of my problems to. And after you talked it over with Brady, you better believe it, he straightened you out and put you on the right track.

Murray: How did he do that? Was he an analyzer of things? Was that, would that have been...?

Tony: Oh, was an analyzer. You better believe he would analyze. He would analyze your marriage and everything that went wrong with it, as well as your life and many other things, and what people generally done. And would tell you what books to go and read to get this information if you cared to read it.

Murray: So he would suggest books and lend you books?

Tony: He'd loan you books and tell you what books to read and some that he didn't have and he felt bad that he didn't. "This would certainly bring up the point you were asking, Tony, and straighten you out on this matter, and this is not only here, this is all over the world," you know.

Murray: Do you think that quite a few people saw Brady in that same light?

Tony: No. Because they never took time to speak with him, or associate with him. To them he was just another Indian on the street.

Murray: What about native people, would they go to Jim?

Tony: Oh yes, you better believe they went to Jim. Oh, there was a steady track of people from Little Hills and many places on the reserve. And even Abbie Halkett who was a strong, probably Liberal or Conservative who eventually went to Abbie and they became great friends and, of course, went and died together. Because he had totally changed Abbie Halkett's thinking on things.

Murray: Abbie was an educated man as well?

Tony: Oh yes, he had been a school teacher, you see. But, you see, he didn't have the grasp of things that Brady had. Brady had read far too much for Abbie and, and myself as far as that goes.

Murray: How did Malcolm fit into that sort of thing? He didn't do the kind of groundwork then that Brady did. Or wasn't in the position to.

Tony: Well, you see, Malcolm was busy raising a family and he had a big family to raise. He had his first marriage and second marriage and he was busy raising a family. He had to work and Malcolm, I think I'm right in saying, Malcolm would keep far ahead of Brady in current events, what was happening in the world today that shouldn't be happening, and would discuss this with Brady and they would argue for hours. Not really argue in violence or anything, but argue in friendship, hours over these sort of things, you see.

Murray: World, world occurrences and politics.

Tony: World occurrences, yes. And I would say that Malcolm done a better job of this of keeping clippings of things.

Murray: Of course, Jim had many scrap books of clippings.

Tony: Oh yes, definitely, definitely. And maybe I could be a little bit wrong on... well, I don't think so, no.

Murray: You mentioned that Malcolm had always thought that mineral resources certainly and probably other resources should be nationalized by the government. He always had in mind how these things would help native people. Did he talk about that explicitly or was that just a general idea of his?

Tony: Well, I never really remember discussing this with him on how it would help natives other than that Malcolm knew

that certain areas should be - that he felt that it should be geologized in detail (which had been done so now) and they should work on mineral trends and not bother about in square

lumps of all the provinces, hundreds of feet of overburden and this type of thing. That they should work on the mineral trends and the more favorable belts, get them done first, and get the province in gear and sort of get native help. Get mines going and get the native people work and places to go to work, you see. And then we can come back and work the more uneconomical say, or unfavorable areas, or considered unfavorable areas, because what is known in geology today...

Murray: Right.

Tony: You see, more is known about in geophysics and many things about finding uranium and finding other minerals today than there was then.

Murray: Right.

Tony: But he was still then. They still haven't completed the more mineral trends in Saskatchewan yet.

Murray: That he wanted them to.

Tony: That he wanted them to, yet. But they have done more detailed geology in areas that he suggested years and years ago.

Murray: Right, right.

Tony: You see.

Murray: I think you were comparing Brady and Norris in their style of argument, and you had mentioned that one of the arguments was about the CPR, how they got the land, and how the native people had treaties and got land. Did they talk a lot about treaties and aboriginal rights?

Tony: The aboriginal rights and treaties and so on. And said, "Well, the Hudson's Bay got so much ground, you haven't taken any from them, and you haven't taken any from the CPR. Why don't you give the native the land he has coming to him, and why do you bother worrying about taking it from him?" And I fully agree with this. If you give something to somebody, you shouldn't be a white man and be an Indian giver.

Murray: Right.

Tony: It's given; that's his. Do with it as you see fit, you see. But you see, if you're going to take something back off him, or trade him a bottle of whiskey for it or something, why don't you give the Hudson's Bay or the CPR or the CNR a bottle of whiskey also?

Murray: So, did that topic come up quite often when they were talking about politics in the north, the aboriginal rights and the land claims?

Tony: Well, fairly often. It came up whenever this point

was brought up by somebody or discussed. Or Malcolm would certainly jump at it, if somebody said, "Well, you know, these people, they have this ground and they shouldn't have it. They're doing nothing with it." Well, so what.

Murray: Was Malcolm the more interested of the two about aboriginal rights?

Tony: Oh, I'd say Brady was fluent on it. He knew everything, but probably didn't show it out explicitly like Malcolm did, you know. Wouldn't get fevered up by it, and you know, like Malcolm would.

Murray: Right. That reminds me too that you mentioned that when you talked to Jim there were certain things he wouldn't talk about, because he got riled up. Could you expand on that a bit?

Murray: Give an example maybe of a conversation that you would try and avoid.

Tony: Well, if it was anything pertaining to white men having pushed him around, or pushing Indians around, which has been done, you know. In earlier days this was done quite commonly and thought nothing of, you see.

Murray: So if you gave an example of this, of something happening, this would set him off. Is that...?

Tony: Yeah, right. Say if I was to say, "Well, so and so tried to check in the hotel. He's had a couple drinks and, you know, they wouldn't let him in and he was a nice guy." You know, if we knew a nice Indian that had a couple drinks and we know that he would get so drunk and walk up to the hotel and try to get a room. We knew that he was going to bed and he wasn't going to raise no ruckus, as we know white man will do,

or anybody, any individual. And if I'd said, you know, "Joe went up," or, "Harry went up to the hotel and tried to get a room there, and they wouldn't give him a room, you know. Poor Harry." You know, you'd feel sorry for him; because you knew the guy personally and you knew what a decent sort of an individual he was. Well, Brady would get violent and then he'd go on the cases that he had (inaudible) and seen dealt with in this way, you see. Which irked Brady, you see, very much.

Murray: It would set his blood...

Tony: Yeah, this is right. And then he would get on some tangent and probably go on this subject for quite a while and when you would like to discuss something else with him. I know a couple of times he did with me, although, when we were with somebody else they would maybe be interested in listening to this, you see. Of course, it wasn't as I wasn't interested in listening to it, but the thing is, you know, that I know this is happening, like I've told you about my...

Murray: The two of you agreed on it so you didn't have to talk about it.

Tony: Right. He didn't have to convince me about it. I know this is happening.

Murray: What about Malcolm, if you mentioned the same thing to Malcolm? What would his reaction be to that?

Tony: "Ah," he said, "they do it every day. You know that as well as I do." And that's it.

Murray: And that was it? It didn't seem to affect him as emotionally as Brady?

Tony: As emotional as Brady, you see. And then, not only that but if this fellow was a... You see, I happen to know after Malcolm Norris quit the - or he didn't quit, he was let go - at Mineral Resources he became the... I believe it had something to do with the Indian Friendship Centre. And what really bothered me was, it really hurt me to think one or two guys - I believe it was from Montreal Lake or someplace - had gone in and got a bus ticket from him, or the money from the Indian Metis Association, and had never taken a bus. They cashed them in and gone drinking. And to do this on one of their own native people, this really hurt me. And Malcolm said, "Well, you see," he said, "they've got the white man's way of life now, and they're even showing me how to use it." You see what I mean? But that was over with then, you see. Of course, Malcolm changed his mind a little bit about his own people. Or at least I seem to think.

Murray: In what way did he change?

Tony: Well, he didn't think that they would do that to Malcolm Norris. You understand what I mean?

Murray: Yeah.

Tony: You see what I'm getting at?

Murray: But when he saw it happening, then he started to change his mind.

Tony: Well, I think he changed his mind. He thought from then on. He said, "You know, I got to be awake with these fellows because there's some of them, you know, they've got it ingrained in them so bad now."

Murray: Did he become disillusioned then at that point, about his people? More pessimistic, perhaps.

Tony: I think maybe a little bit. I think the way he said it to me. And it certainly bothered me, it certainly hurt me knowing how Malcolm was so meticulous with every prospector.

They trusted him with fifty thousand dollars, and I know this for a fact. I can take you to two prospectors I know of and one of them living in Saskatchewan owning a hotel, that took out a fifty thousand dollar cheque and they said, "Malcolm, we'll sign it. You take it back and put the bank in; we're not coming in town." And Malcolm did that for them. Malcolm would keep books down to the penny for his prospecting friends out in the field. And he would never gyp them out of a penny or a postage stamp, or one little thing, and to think some of his own people, later, would try to, you know, pull a trick on him - I think it was a little let down to Malcolm.

Murray: It wasn't so much a personal hurt as feeling bad about the state of his people, is that it?

Tony: The state his people had gone to, to the state that they would turn around and do this to another native person,

that was working for their benefit and on their behalf, that he had thought degraded. And I remember also once, of sitting down there on Main Street in La Ronge, and the husband was in drinking in the beer parlour and they left wife and kids outside in the truck. And Malcolm said, "You know, this is terrible, they should do this. That truck's been there for so many hours." And in the early days you certainly knew in La Ronge. And you know he said that's what drink had done to them, you see. Malcolm had never let his children, you know, in this manner, you see.

Murray: Did he talk about the problem of alcohol? Did he think there was a solution, any particular solution or just, how did he feel about the effect of alcohol on his people?

Tony: Well, I really thought he figured that, as I think many people do, the system has to be changed before you can change this.

Murray: It's a symptom rather than a...

Tony: What are you going to do about it? They've got a license to operate, this is how they make their living and the more alcohol they sell the more money they make, and what are you going to do about it? There's nothing you can do about it. And your tax money is being poured out in tax institutions to straighten them out. Malcolm was quite hep on this and I think it's worse today than ever it was and I wonder where we're going. I see it all over the world and I say to myself, well it's a hopeless case, the sooner I retire, or be able to, the better off.

Murray: You mentioned that towards the last few years that Malcolm changed his mind a bit, or became a little more pessimistic perhaps. Did Jim develop that sort of thing too, or how did he express that, or did he?

Tony: Yeah, I think Jim did, too. But you see, towards the last few years I had left here for about seven years. I came back to visit him and he had just been put in the field at that time. That's when they was missing from there. And I remember trying to go over to Flin Flon/Creighton and there had been an awful snow and I couldn't make it. So I turned back out and said forget it, and I went back to Vancouver. And I remember that time and then months after I said, "Oh, my God, that must have been the, they was out in that storm that was up in La Ronge (inaudible) on..."

Murray: Snowed the night they landed there.

Tony: Right. And I'm not sure but I think I brought Mac Norris that's in town here, over here at that time. Now I may not have done, but I believe it was that time and Mac never went back to Edmonton. Mac stayed, or went back to Edmonton and came back here and never left since. He's still here today.

Murray: I was wondering whether you had remembered since the last time we talked, I'd asked you about some of Norris's ideas and plans that he thought the department should follow. And at that time I asked you, you said you couldn't remember all of them. Can you recall any of the kinds of things that he was trying to get done in the department, besides talking about nationalizing resources and that sort of thing?

Tony: Well, you see, he was against, as many was at that time, but he was against the government all being in the south and nothing here to directly deal with the people and give the answers right here, and this sort of thing, and move into the north, and get in with the people. He was also for social workers and different people coming here on their equal. You don't coax people into the north with a thirty thousand dollar home. You get on their equal and come on over to my place. And you have the same grounds as them, you're talking on the same terms, you live under the same conditions, you're on their equal. And I notice this even to this day. Well, I moved in this apartment. I had a house in La Ronge and used to have all my friends come there from Stanley, from all over the villages among different things. But here I don't have the room and some of them don't come because I'm in a big apartment, or this big apartment.

Murray: It intimidates them, does it?

Tony: It intimidates them, you see.

Murray: Do native people deliberately avoid this whole, sort of the old mining subdivision and the bureaucracy that lives here? Do they avoid this part of town, a lot of the native people?

Tony: Well, yes and no. Some of the people that live here. They only go to the houses where their native friends are.

They don't associate with many of the whites and this sort of thing, you see. Well, La Ronge is definitely not like it used to be, you see. Well, how can somebody who's born in the south and doesn't know the native people, or understand their

background, there's no way they're going to have a native person at their house or associate with them, you see.

Murray: Right.

Tony: And if you don't know a person and how they think, and how they feel, and what they have to put up with, and what not, how could you do the best for him? How could you help him out? It's that southern education. I've often said, if you're brought up in England and you're taught in England or anyplace else in the world, how can you walk over here and come in the north and say, "Oh yeah, I've read about all the natives. I know all about them." You don't know nothing.

Murray: And that's the situation today?

Tony: And that's the situation today, as far as I'm concerned. Because when you know everything and that natives come into your house and telling you everything. And how many people can say, "Well, I know Joe got a moose last night." And they say, "How did he get this and how did he get that and how did he get the other?" They won't tell other people that. They won't tell the conservation officers, they won't tell the police, but I know they're doing this. Now since I quit the resources they tell me these things. But this is how they live and none of this is wasted. He's given to all their friends and none of it's peddled or done anything with, and I see no wrong with it as long as they're utilizing it all. I see a lot wrong with shooting moose for his trophy or its horns or its head, but I certainly don't see that they shouldn't utilize it all. And they are the people of this country, they are born here, they don't know anything else. And these are the first to be considered, not somebody from outside, the way I feel.

Murray: Can you recall anything else that Malcolm used to talk about, the kinds of things he wanted to see done? You mentioned quite a few, I know, but I'm just trying to drag as many out of your memory as I can.

Tony: Well, they used to talk about how settlements could become self-sufficient and far more reliable on their own resources and how you could work together, and what you could do to encourage them. But as Brady said, you know, if you don't know the enemy and you're not friends with him, and get in his back yard, how are you going to whip him? He's going to whip you. And this is the same way with friendship. If you don't know enough a man to go and visit him back and forth, how do you expect to know him, and how his feelings are, and what, and how you are going to help him out? And if you don't understand his problems, of his wife, his family, on the trap line, and what conditions he lives under, and the toil he has

to go through, and what his wife has to do when he's away. And I'm sure hundreds of people have come to the north here now don't know these things.

Murray: Don't even want to, particularly.

Tonay: And they don't bother, you see. We've hauled up plywood for a guy so he could get plywood for the floor of his house, and done all sorts of things for them, and tried to help them out. And oh, there's so many problems you don't know where to start. But it seems like you're not going to get them done

with somebody who knows less than you do yourself. How can you tell him, how can you explain to him, how can you continually keep doing write-ups to try and tell him what you're doing and how you're doing it, and what you're doing it for? You can't continue and keep doing this. You're going to get bogged under. Bureaucracy's going to smoke you out and say you're all haywire.

Murray: So both Brady and Norris wanted to see a different kind of government people in the north than they were getting, they wanted people who were sympathetic?

Tony: Well, not only sympathetic but that was prepared to get on their level and get down and discuss things with them. If you're talking computers and a guy's talking about a rabbit trap, well there's too far to a difference. You got to get down. You got to know what he talks about when he says a rabbit trap or a rabbit snare or a what have you. You know, if you don't know what he's talking about, forget it. You have to get somebody else to do this, because he certainly doesn't know anything about computers.

Murray: Right. What were some of the things that Brady felt were most important in terms of - what kinds of things did he discuss most with you? Can you recall anything that came up more often than others?

Tony: Well, problems like family problems with the native, why certain things didn't work, and why it wouldn't work and it was hopeless trying, and yet they kept on bullying it through. You see, and at that time we had a resources branch here and why you couldn't have one conservation in there, and him be lord mayor over everything. You couldn't do this because you had the life and limb of everybody right under one man, and if he didn't like you, or the wrinkle of your eyebrow, "Sorry..."

Murray: This was the conservation officer or the field officer?

Tony: Right, right, you couldn't do that. They agreed their self. Brady would be the first one to tell you, "Well, look, Tony, maybe you'd better go and see him. I think he likes you better than myself." But with the conservation officer, if he didn't like you - bango! Down with the...

Murray: So he had the power to do what he wanted really.

Tony: Right.

Murray: So Brady and Norris wanted to see, or Brady wanted to see that kind of power done away with?

Tony: Done away. Oh, not only done away with. It was consultation with all the people and get them all enthusiastic and, of course, that I can well understand. Because you can go into most all communities, and after a consultation and discussing with them all, they will eventually go to the best natives, the ones that will do the work, and the other ones are coaxed along, or they will shame them out themselves, or shame them into working and what have you. Get them all enthusiastic, you see. But the thing is if you don't do this, you're out.

Murray: Then you've got to resort to bribing and pushing.

Tony: Threats and what have you, you see.

Murray: So self-sufficiency was one of the key phrases for Brady. The idea of communities running themselves.

Tony: Run themselves and do their own work, and earn their own money, and be industrious and free, and to tell you and me, "To hell with you. I earn my eight dollars a day," or whatever the wages was at that time, "and I don't have to bow to anybody." And this sort of thing. Give them pride back, you see.

Murray: Right. Did either of them have any ideas about what kinds of small industries and things could provide that sort of self-sufficiency?

Tony: Oh, they used to talk oodles of them, you know, oodles of industry, you see. Like we often talked and I still say today, you know, we ordered curling rocks from Scotland when we've got granite...

Murray: All the rock up here.

Tony: Granite by the miles, you see. All the banks is faced with all the marble from Italy, and we found it up here in two places. All the silica sand we ever need, and all the potash mines in southern Saskatchewan are hauling it from Manitoba. All the fracking sand for all the oil wells comes from Texas. And Lord, we got thousands of acres of fracking sand up here, you see, in with the silica sand and what have you. But we got some of the finest silica sand and no doubt if we were given enough time and enough money we could prospect it. We should go out and we could find eye lens of glass sand that's worth thousands of dollars a truckload. Oh, there's so many things could be done. The selling pet rocks. On an island on Lake Athabasca, we could pick the rocks off, buckets

and tons of them there, that rolled with the ice each year - the finest pet rocks in the northern hemisphere.

Murray: Yeah.

Tony: For nothing. Oh, there's a million things we could do, but how do you get through the bureaucracy? And how do you tell somebody who's been brought up in Saskatoon or Regina about these things and the native can do it?

Murray: And this is what Jim and Malcolm would try and do, push these kinds of projects?

Tony: These kinds of projects. But of course, in pet rocks, there was no pet rocks in those days.

Murray: But that kind of thing?

Tony: That kind of thing, and they was the first to grab onto this, you see. They read too much and was too long awake, for most people, you see. Too far ahead of them.

Murray: People just wouldn't listen to them? On what basis would those ideas be rejected, do you think?

Tony: What basis?

Murray: I mean who would say, "No, this is no good."

Tony: One of Malcolm Norris's uttermost(?) friends was probably, I'd say, probably the chief geologist at that time, Dr. Cheeseman. And actually I think Dr. Cheeseman was the one who had the prospectors' school quashed in the end. You know, these sort of things. And today it's running and it's only on account of Malcolm Norris that it's running today. It's one of

his fine ideas. And what Brady gave to it and what have you, you see. But, I don't know, you know.

Murray: Somewhere in the bureaucracy those ideas all got...

Tony: All smoked under. Any man like this was, you know, pushed to one side. He was a nut as far as they was concerned. He wanted to do something...

Murray: They were satisfied just to run whatever was happening at the time.

Tony: Yeah, keep the status quo, keep his rocking chair rocking, you know.

Murray: Yeah. The last thing, I wanted to get a little more detail on - there was a prospectors' school, and the Prospectors' Assistance Plan. How did those two things work together? And what role did Norris have in the two of them?

Tony: Well, he taught at the school. He taught at the

school as well as some of the other geologists, you see, they had in the Department of Resources - Ted Allingham at that time and the resident geologist and Dr. Kirkland, who's now Dr. Kirkland. I think he was probably Dr. then too, I'm not sure. But other geologists taught in the school as well as Malcolm. He gave lectures probably on a, who knows, a compass and rock identification. And at one, I believe at one time they gave schools in Battleford and places - two-week schools or a week school and this sort of thing. And I think it was a very good thing. And then, of course, later on they gave a prospectors' assistance, where they give them one aircraft every two weeks

or once a month or something, and took them out and gave them a canoe and equipment.

(END OF SIDE A)
(END OF TAPE)

*Note on document not covered on tape:

The training plan didn't pay a salary, just paid expenses and lent out the equipment. About mid-fifties pressure was put on the PAP and it was harder every year to get money - cancelled after the Liberals came in. Cheeseman was responsible. Malcolm was Cheeseman's target - he wanted to get rid of Malcolm.

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