Allan Quandt has lived in northern Saskatchewan for over 30 years. He was an active member of the CCF and ran as a candidate in the 1960 provincial election. He was a friend of Malcolm Norris and Jim Brady.

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Early days of the CCF government.
- CCF programs for northern Saskatchewan.
- Arrival of Malcolm Norris and Jim Brady.
- Disillusionment with the CCF.
- The firing of Norris and Brady.
- The rape of Mary Norris in Prince Albert.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Allan Quandt was Malcolm Norris' and Jim Brady's closest associate during their time in northern Saskatchewan. He was their political associate, worked with them and was a close friend as well. In this tape Quandt gives a brief description of when and why the men came to Saskatchewan; the initial
motives of the new CCF government in the north; the difficulties of both government and native leaders in dealing with a completely colonized native population - the problems of implementing a set of progressive programs in a top-down manner, having failed to secure the active support of those programs among the people affected. He describes the various jobs the two men had with the government and when and how each man came to leave the government. He touches briefly on other matters: the gradual entrenchment of conservative, professional bureaucrats and the negative affect on policy; Brady's and Norris' personal traits; efforts to fire both men.

INTERVIEW:

Allan: Really, what happened was that I think that the CCF were determined to do something about people in the northern part of Saskatchewan and it was well known that people in this part of the country suffered because of the fact that the only area they could go to to buy goods was the Hudson's Bay Company. Prices were exorbitantly high, usually the return for goods by way of furs and that was usually low, and it was just sort of the economy that they maintained these people just at a certain level to be able to get back the furs. Now this also applied as far as fish was concerned. Now, I don't know whether this was a cabinet decision but I can only speak of the time that I came into the thing and I think the determination was made that they were going to do something in this part of the country. And they had in education, a fellow by the name of Chet Piercy was commissioned to do a study of northern Saskatchewan and he came up with the Piercy Report and this is supposed to be the key to changing things. Education, we have to educate people. They didn't realize what this was going to do, the cultural shock that was going to take place. And if you look at it now, in retrospect, you would see that what this has done has been a terrible thing. Education hasn't accomplished, we've gone back as far as....

Murray: The opposite.

Allan: Just the opposite. Because they just didn't understand. They wanted to do something, so Joe Phelps was the Minister of Natural Resources at that time and he wanted to get people in to the programs that they sort of envisaged by having people of Indian ancestry involved directly. Now, how he got next to Malcolm Norris, whether it was through the old Alberta Metis Association, I don't know. But this is how he came, it was through Malcolm Norris. And his executive assistant was a fellow by the name of Petty...

Mrs. Quandt: Henry Petty.

Allan: Henry Petty and he had made the contact and told me that a chap by the name of Malcolm Norris was coming and they were going to then decide just exactly how he would fit into the Department of Natural Resources. Now, I'll go back to this fisheries commission thing. They also commissioned a report,
or a commission was set up, to study freshwater fishing because the same thing that existed in the practices of fur, existed in the freshwater fishing industry.

Murray: High costs, low pay.

Allan: High, high, terribly high costs and they lived in almost a state of serfdom to the fish companies. There was Len Waite and there was Waite Fisheries and there were Booth Fisheries and there was these various people that came in and the fishermen went out and fished. And then, you know, actually following the Depression, there were a lot of people moved up into this part of the country, so there were a lot of white people involved. You got over into the Buffalo Narrows area and you saw a lot of Scandinavian people were involved. And there used to be a lot of people come up to La Ronge area, they would come up. That time - oh, what the dickens is the name there? - some fellow that had also construction, a construction crew that came up as far as Molanosa. Built the road up that far. I'll think of the name. Doesn't make any difference. Now these fellows were in the fishing purchase and they'd outfitted with nets and so on and then these people would owe them for them and so on. So they brought in from Nova Scotia, a fellow that had gone through St. Francis Xavier at Antigonish, a fellow by the name of Gus MacDonald, Angus MacDonald. MacDonald is a very uncommon name in Nova Scotia.

Murray: I'm sure it is.

Allan: (chuckles) So anyhow, Gus MacDonald came out and he eventually became Director of Fisheries but he sat on this commission, and a guy by the name of Bert Mansfield and...pardon?

Mrs. Quandt: George Cadbury?

Allan: I don't know whether Cadbury was on, but I can't remember offhand. You can always get this information. But this fisheries commission had sittings at various places and they did this study and they went through. And Gus MacDonald incidentally, stayed, we just saw him a couple of nights ago down on the dock. He's retired now but he eventually went with the United Nations and he's just come back from Zambia. But he became Director of Fisheries and I worked closely with Gus for a few years and you know, a marvelous...

Murray: Socialist?

Allan: Social democrat but a very well-intentioned person.

Murray: He knew Brady and Norris, too?

Allan: Yeah, yeah. Well, now the stage that Norris came in, let's see, in 1946, sometime in the winter. The first I recall meeting Malcolm Norris was Petty said to me, "Listen, Norris has come in. I'm busy. Would you go over and meet him for me?
I'd like to have you make him at home. Go over to the Empress Hotel. He should be checked in there." And I think that he had come in by train.

Murray: Where was this, in Saskatoon?

Allan: No, in Prince Albert. The old Empress Hotel is gone there. There is now a hamburger stand, an A&W hamburger, follow the Great Rootbear over to the A&W. So, by golly, I went up and I knocked at this room and I knocked at the door there of this room and that's the first that I ever met Malcolm Norris. And he was a really striking person, you know, really. And a fantastic intellect.

(Long pause)

I feel like, I suppose, like Berry. The only thing is that with him, it didn't hit him until he heard the kids sing.

Murray: At the memorial thing.

Allan: Yeah.

Mrs. Quandt: He had to go home he was so emotionally ill. Really...

Murray: A lot of people are really... I talked to Zenon Pohorecky in Saskatoon and he says he had a real soft spot in his heart for Malcolm.

Allan: Well, you see, he used the term 'laddie' a lot. And he said, "You know, laddie," he said, "I think probably we're going to get somewhere." He said, "It looks like we got a good government here." And he also did another thing that he usually did, he identified himself as...

Mrs. Quandt: Redskin Norris?

Allan: Right.

Murray: With a play on the word 'red'?

Allan: Yeah. And he did it because he was always very proud. He was always, as far as his Indian ancestry is concerned, probably the proudest individual I've ever known. I seen lots of people, you know, that really great, but they just took it as a matter of fact. I would say he almost wore it like a medallion around his neck. And he would never back off and never allow anyone to say anything about anyone. And that wasn't only Indian people. He knew, you know, as a socialist, he knew that there was no place for discrimination.

Murray: Whether whites or Indians? Yeah, there are so many native people today in the Metis Society who on the outside talk about being proud of their native people but, at the same time, you catch them apologizing every once in a while. Even
Allan: You know, it's understandable when you look at what happens to people so often. And I always say, you know, in the end the only one they hurt is themselves because it has to be a very painful thing. But Malcolm knew very well where he stood. He knew very well, as far as middle class capitalism is concerned, he knew exactly, he was anti-fascist all the way. He was a real left wing socialist. He had faults. He was chauvinistic. I think that's a hangover probably from his Indian ancestry. At that time....

Murray: Nobody talked about that.

Allan: No one talked about it at the time and the thing is this, that we had some frank discussions on many things but we never touched on that. And Jim was the same way. And I think that the thing is that if you turn around and you look for people that provide leadership and you're going to look for perfection, that will never come about.

Murray: Not in a capitalist society.

Allan: And it certainly isn't going to. Because eventually, at some period and state, people are only human and they probably may not have feet of clay but probably part of their feet are made up of a portion of clay anyhow. And I know that what I found over the years is that I've tried to look for too much in people, especially politically, and damned people because they didn't, you know,....

Mrs. Quandt: Live up to your expectations.

Allan: Well, they didn't come up to my expectations. I expected too much from them because they said they were something and I thought of them as something. They didn't come up to this. And the thing is that what I've learned is that, I think that probably what brought me to this - and now I'm not telling you about Malcolm Norris, only trying to explain a little bit about him - and that is that my understanding of this probably is like the Vietnam war when they tried to get a government of national accord. You recognize that you have got elements within the country that are there. It isn't the case of today you have one thing and tomorrow you have a different thing. It's a matter of turning around and what they're prepared to go through and recognize that there is this force within this country. But through diligence and application they are able to show the people, eventually, that either these people are going to change or be absorbed or they are going to have to change. In other words, eventually the power and strength of those people that believe in socialism, that their leaders through leadership....
Murray: Will change them.

Allan: Are going to change. Now, on the other hand, the elements for that change are there because what has happened is that you have smashed the state apparatus with regard to what existed before. That has gone out of existence because militarily, you have smashed that. Now what you also have done is you have replaced the protection of what has in the past been protected by the armed services, the police force, etc. Now that apparatus is in your hands. And now you also have got a majority of the people who represent either a peasant class or a working class who now are prepared to see those changes. But take these other elements, recognizing that there is a place, and probably for that particular stage, it must exist that way. And I think that this is where to apply it, let's say, to northern Saskatchewan. It is idealistic to think that we could have changed...

Murray: To create a socialist northern Saskatchewan.

Allan: That's right. We could've. It may have been a state within a state but what we'd have to do is superimpose until the people here are ready to take those things into their hands. And they may, even on the community level, do things that you would look at and say, "My God, why do they do that?" But if it represents some move that the people want on a majority basis, then you have to accept it. You have to accept that idealism. Now I think in going back and applying, this is probably one of the weaknesses of most - well, probably more of Malcolm's because Malcolm thought that it was so apparent that people should see immediately. And what had happened is that he and Jim Brady and Pete Tomkins and the Alberta Metis Association had been able to make some headway because at the time, when they formed this, there was such a great need for it. People were very, very poor and they were struggling. Another thing is that in their struggle, you want to remember they were dealing with a group of people that had sort of an agricultural background. There had been certain movements within there, that they had been part of.

Murray: The native people, they were different from Alberta.

Allan: Right. That's right. And their experience stood them in good stead. Now what was happening is that he's coming up into a part of the country where actually a people were existing in a cultural area. Well, he did many things that led to other things that people couldn't see. He did economic surveys on his own, went in, fur prices, fish prices, would set these up, would recognize that he had to move. We didn't have the great giant bureaucracy you had to fight your way through at that time because it was something new and vibrant. I think that the CCF wanted to do things and so you could always get to the minister. Today I imagine Joe Phelps would be the first one to admit to many mistakes because of the superimposition of some of these things upon people. Like the Fish Board wasn't
accepted. And the poor fisherman. The fish companies used the people as a tool against the Fish Board because you see, they had made contact...

Murray: The people hadn't created the Fish Board themselves.

Allan: That's right. There was also the fur conservation block area. Now some of this became accepted. Again you could analyze that and look for some of the reasons that it became more acceptable and probably some of the reasons was the fact that there were a lot of white people had moved in and had taken over lines and these people realized that they needed some protection and the block idea had a certain appeal to it. There was a little bit more democratic approach to it. Another thing is that they had people started this out. And I don't say that these people were so well motivated because basically, I look at these people, they were the types that you would find in Indian Affairs. But they had been here before and had contact with native people and, as a matter of fact, a couple of white fellows that were married, their wives were Indian and they had a certain acceptance by the moccasin telegram. Well here's Bill Tunstead, he lives over at Ile-a-la-Crosse so they knew him someplace over in the east side as well because when he came in he could talk, he knew a little bit better. Not being able to speak the language, he didn't speak the language. But Malcolm was a very articulate and forceful speaker. You'd almost say an orator.

Mrs. Quandt: You either loved him or hated him.

Allan: That was another thing.

Murray: And he was the same with you. You knew pretty quickly how he felt about you.

Allan: Yeah. And a skillful debater. I could see him, I've seen him reduce people...

Mrs. Quandt: Ministers and all.

Allan: Oh, my God, you know, he could cut - I've seen him take Wilf Churchman. Churchman was actually feared. He was actually afraid of Brady and Norris because they'd show him up for an asshole.

Murray: Every time they came into contact.

Allan: Well there were other people.

Mrs. Quandt: (Inaudible)

Allan: Okay. Then the way that Malcolm Norris came is that the government actually sent for him and it was, I would say, through his being known and I would imagine at Joe Phelps's request.
Murray: I'll have to talk to Joe about that.

Allan: You could talk to Joe about that. I tell you the fellow that was over at that was Ahab Spence who is still active in Manitoba. Ahab Spence is still alive. He's in that age group.

Murray: And what was his role?

Allan: Ahab Spence was, at the time when Malcolm was trying to get a native organization going here and that would've been, I would've said in the fifties.

Murray: Early fifties.

Allan: Yeah. What happened is that he had invited Ahab Spence over to address them at the same time. I don't know what they were doing in Manitoba at the time but Ahab Spence today is very active in - I don't know over there what they call it, the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, is it?

Murray: Um, I don't know.

Mrs. Quandt: Manitoba Metis Association, I think.

Allan: But Spence, I know this because I remember seeing him on TV when he was down and they had invited the minister. And he is again very articulate. But Malcolm at the time, you know, indicated to me that Ahab Spence could see this in terms... I don't know if this Spence was a socialist or not but certainly Norris was.

Murray: How long after did Brady come?

Allan: Well, okay, then Brady. Now they were running into some problems with the Fish Board. And what happened is that Malcolm always maintained that you could not run the fishing business without completely integrating it. You had to have a trading service with it, you had to provide trade goods, you had to give all these things. In other words, you had to do just like the Hudson's Bay Company and have all these services available.

Murray: So that nobody got any profit except...

Allan: This is right. And then what you've gradually done, it wasn't on the basis of you started out this way, and that people would work this into either a cooperative... but there had to be... Now here again, you see, and this is sort of the fallacy of approaching this from a socialist point of view and feeling that you could superimpose this upon people. The superimposition is the quiet resistance that was met with. But he said, "Okay, what we have to do is we have to get native people in here to run these things." And he said, "I can go out and I can get these people." Malcolm said this. "I can go out and get the people so if you're going to have somebody at a
certain northern settlement, you're going to have a native in there running this and these people that I know will be political," he said.

Murray: And Brady was one of them.

Allan: Brady was one. And he said, "Jimmy Brady. We got to bring Jimmy Brady. We have to bring Pete Tomkins." See, so what they were doing is he was just going back into the old Alberta Metis Association and bringing...

Murray: Bringing all the heavies.

Allan: And bringing back these fellows. Now an organizer, you'll never get a better organizer than Pete Tomkins. Pete Tomkins philosophically was, as far as a socialist was concerned, Peter was no great... he was just a great guy. He was a great PR man and he could...

Mrs. Quandt: He could talk to anybody.

Allan: You know, he could charm the pictures off the wall and he had a great repertoire of stories and this type of thing.

Murray: And Brady wasn't as much...

Allan: No, no. Brady was a more serious type. Brady was a very razor sharp mind. His strength and abilities lay in his analysis of a situation. He was a real political animal. He could analyze a situation and he got down to where he was doing his qualitative and quantitative analysis of situations. And I seen him after he was forced out of the government civil service and go back to Cumberland House and come back and how he would assess the situation and it was just as crystal clear as could be. And Brady was the one that always remarked and said, "Well, you know, when history is finally written, there is always two histories. Histories that are recorded from a middle class point of view and they are distorted by middle class values and so on. Then," he said, "there will be the Marxist history. And the Marxist history will do an analysis of why this took place and interpret it for you and that is eventually going to be the history that we are going to have to be telling to our children because this is going to be the history as it actually happened." And you know, you can see this. For instance, I know as going to school in the U.S., when you begin to look at the civil war and they told you it was over slavery and there was, you know... These are all B.S. things that disappear when you get into the analysis of the situation.

Mrs. Quandt: What year was this that you got Brady in? Wasn't that 1947?

Allan: Well, Brady would have come into, in about 1947 or 1948, something like that.
Mrs. Quandt: It was before we were married.

Allan: Yeah.

Murray: It was a year after, I think, according to what I've heard before but I'm not... about a year, eh?

Allan: And the first I met Jim Brady was at Deschambault and I got on a plane and I was going over there and he was buying fish there for the Fish Board.

Murray: That's where he worked, wasn't it, for the Fish Board?

Allan: That's right. He worked for the Fish Board and he was buying and packing fish. I got off and I made some remark (and Jim was a very reserved individual) and I said, "My name is Allan Quandt, Jim." I said, "I am really happy to meet you. Malcolm Norris told me to greet you." I had a few words with him. Jim had, for a big man, had a sort of a high voice. Especially when he got a little bit agitated, Jim, he would sort of...

Murray: Peak.

Allan: Yeah, it would come up a little. And anyhow, I remember I made some remark about someone within his organization. He had had some real problems at Deschambault and he wasn't getting... Phelps had sent his brother Don over there and Jim was really put off because Don had done something, didn't know the situation at all. I made some remark about social democrats and he picked up on this and I think that was probably the first time that he probably looked at me critically and was sort of saying to himself, "Well, goddamn it, I wonder where the hell this guy fits into the picture. Who the hell is he and what...?" And then after going through there, I had a discussion with Malcolm and I said, "Christ, we can't... a man like that sitting over there, packing fish." Of course, he had operated a cooperative fisheries project over at Lac La Biche. And I said, "God, we got to try to get him into the department." And so he did and he came in as a field officer and we got him. We also got Tommy Francis - Tommy Francis had been in the same squadron as Henry Petty in the war.

Murray: What was Brady doing first of all in Deschambault?

Allan: He came in for the Fish Board. They brought him in, they'd just brought him from Alberta in. I'm talking like a German now, they brought him from Alberta in. (chuckles) They brought him in from Alberta but when he arrived on the scene there, you see, Malcolm had sent for him and the thing is, what do they do? Nobody had...

Murray: Nobody told him exactly what to do...

Allan: No, nobody has a clear cut idea of where you're going
to put him either. So what they did is they turned around and, oh, the Fish Board, there's a good place, toss him in there. He had experience and knew fish and fish good. So this is how he ended up there and, you know, you're just wasting these talents. Actually, if they would've got Brady out at that particular time and they could've got him out to just do a political analysis of this whole situation and then recommend some form of political program, let's say for the party, to attempt to try to penetrate this area - what do we do to try to get a political awareness? - I think now, we would have probably been...

(End of Side A)

(Side B)

Allan: ...and some way, shape, or form and he said, because again, I think...

Murray: Was it Mineral Resources that...?

Allan: No, no, this is still Natural Resources. And I said, "Absolutely." And I remember Joe saying, "I don't give a damn whether a man is a Communist or not." He says, "Now I've talked to you and he's your responsibility and I'll hold you responsible and if you feel that this man should be retained..." he said. And that was sort of a probationary period that Malcolm had gone through. Malcolm was very, very outspoken and he scared the shit out of a hell of a lot of people.

Murray: Bureaucrats and that...

Allan: And I wished to hell he'd have scared the shit... I wish that Churchman would have shit himself to death to be truthful. But he used to just cringe. And other people. I related about a couple of incidents there about when Ives made the remark about Jewish people and so on and Malcolm got up. He just challenged. He believed in the frontal approach. Nothing subtle. You knew where the hell you stood. Oh Jesus, he could cut people to... and I saw him do it to Joe Phelps. He did this at a public meeting when Joe Phelps... The whole public, you know, they laughed at this poor - was Stan McAuley. And Stan McAuley was just a shit disturber and didn't know what he was about and he was half drunk and everything but, by God, Malcolm stood up and challenged the minister.

Murray: McAuley was challenging the minister in....?

Allan: Well, it was over a fish. His booze probably was given to him by Holly Davis and his crowd there and he was probably sent there to just disrupt this thing. By God, Joe Phelps you know, hell, he really took off and reduced the guy again. And Malcolm got up and he really reprimanded the minister for this. And the place, in those days, you want to remember now, God,
the CCF had come into power in 1944. This is right after the
war. You had things going. Like the box factory had been
expropriated from old... Well it does matter, Roberta.

Mrs. Quandt: Oh, Keewatin,...

Allan: Yeah.

Mrs. Quandt: Della....

Allan: Mitchell, Johnny Mitchell. What happened is that they
locked these guys out and so the government made a decision.
They expropriated this thing just like that and then they had
this box factory on. And feelings were running high but the
people, the working class people in P.A., were very supportive.

Murray: It must've been quite an emotional time after the CCF
was in government.

Allan: Oh yeah, you blame right. And the thing is this you
know, that the polarization was so clear. But, at this
meeting, well, they were all there, you know, basically
supporting the minister, in support of this minister. But here
was this poor Indian and, you know, it was overkill. And
Malcolm just took him to task for that and he says, "It doesn't
behave you as a minister of the crown and as a socialist," he
says, "to treat poor people in this manner."

Murray: And Joe shut up?

Allan: Well, you know, that doesn't help (inaudible) but I'll
say this about Joe Phelps, well Joe Phelps got a real screwing.
That's when my feeling of - you got this recorded for history
now too - my first feelings about Tommy Douglas and...

Murray: Being a rat.

Allan: Devious little twit.

Murray: I've heard that from another good source too, that he
was a real nasty little bastard.

Allan: Yeah. Well, he knew how to use power.

Agnes: One thing I was wondering about Brady, when he left
Cumberland House, did his involvement with the government end
then? Like he was employed at Cumberland House. Berry talked
about all the reasons and...

Murray: Said he worked for a lot of individual people after
that, prospecting and stuff.

Allan: Yeah.

Agnes: Do you remember about what time that was?
Allan: When he was eased out of the government?

Agnes: Yeah.

Mrs. Quandt: 1951?

Allan: Pretty close.

Mrs. Quandt: 1951.

Murray: Berry said he wasn't sure how it happened. He said he thought it might be somewhat mutual on the part of Brady and the government, that Brady was pretty frustrated and the government wanted him out as well.

Allan: Yeah, he was frustrated but there isn't any doubt that they engineered this because what was happening was that they were trying to get things on him. At that particular time, one of the things they wanted to do... they had a fellow, an Anglican minister by the name of Parker. Jim had told me this and whether Parker came directly to him... Parker was quite an old - he was quite a character.

Mrs. Quandt: He's still alive.

Allan: Yeah. He was married to an Indian woman and I always maintained when you went in that house, you had to have a compass and a map or you'd never find your way out of it again. My God, was it ever cluttered up. But anyhow, he was one of these types of ministers that go into the north and he's got his little flock and he treats them as little children and so on. Well, anyhow, a guy by the name of Cham McLean who became a northern administrator. The northern administrator at that time was a fellow by the name of Cham McLean and Cham McLean allegedly went to Parker and wanted to get a whole bunch of dirt on Brady because Brady was living common law with this... You see, in those days, they were frowning on this type of thing. So anyhow, Parker just refused to be part of this type of thing.

Murray: Who directed him to get the information?

Allan: Well, we feel Churchman, yeah, the northern administrator. We feel that the northern administrator was doing it directly from Churchman because Churchman now was building his empire, and by now you had Brockelbank as a Minister of Natural Resources. Then you see, what actually happened in there too now, as far as Malcolm Norris is concerned, he switched when this thing really got into a bind with the frustrations that we had met. We could see that these things were going down the drain. The bureaucrats, you know, at that time, they didn't recognize themselves as bureaucrats but the guys that were on the ascendancy were fellows like Churchman, Vern Hogg and these people and they
were gradually coming up in positions of importance and coming through. And they wanted to be apolitical but they were political. They would make a contribution just to maintain and say, "Oh yeah, you know, we're,..."

Murray: Talking about Churchman and those guys.

Allan: Yeah. "We're for you all the way." But there wasn't any other commitment at all. So they were gradually building up this power structure and so people were falling off like flies. Well, I quit and different other people went and, you know, the arm was being put on. Eased out or you adjusted.

And what Malcolm did was he adjusted to it and he transferred. They had split the department then and they separated Mineral Resources and they made two departments. And so, he transferred to that department and then he actually was the one that started up the Prospectors' Assistance Plan.

Murray: That was about the same time that Brady left Cumberland House was it?

Allan: I would say and my dates on this are not too good but....

Mrs. Quandt: Well, the reason I know that Jim Brady left Cumberland House was because we bought our first house in 1950 and we were living in the old house the year that Jim came to live with us. And Jim lived with us six months or so...

Murray: In the house you're in now?

Mrs. Quandt: Yeah, we had one bedroom and he slept in the front room chesterfield for....

Allan: He didn't have any employment at all. And it was really bad...

Mrs. Quandt: Any income. And you were working at the fish plant.

Allan: Yeah, it was really hard. The times were really hard.

Murray: What were you doing at the fish plant? You quit DNR at that time?

Mrs. Quandt: Yeah.

Allan: Well, oh yeah, I had quit DNR and we were going into the outfitting business. What we did was we had a partner and we tried to work out where we had other means of income. Like, we looked after the air base here. Floyd Glass became manager of Saskatchewan Government Airways and then asked whether we'd look after the air base there. So we looked after the air base and we were splitting this money up with our partner and then we had a place to live and he had a place to live and then Jim stayed with us and then well, gradually Jim got - I'd got him a
job. We had a school committee at that time. I got him a job as caretaking, just caretaking in the school. Well then, as a matter of fact, he went over and he lived down there in the basement for part of the time that he was there. Then gradually, you know, he did different... He looked after fire fighting because this is one thing that one came to records and that and knowing how to keep records and keep things straight and he did that. And then when mining companies came along, I don't know just when it was when Berry....

Murray: So it was all sort of piecemeal work, eh?

Allan: Yeah.

Mrs. Quandt: He was always very, very broke.

Murray: He was broke even when he was making money.

Allan: That's right. He was always helping people. See, the biggest share of his money that he had gathered together in that frustration he had at Cumberland House was... See, again the Timber Board was part of this whole thing and again, that structure was changing. A guy by the name of Howard Lukas managed this. Gradually Lukas was eased on out and then we got guys in there that were hard-nosed and so on and they didn't understand the situation. So what Brady tried to get to salvage an operation. We had a saw mill, a department saw mill over at Cumberland House and, if I remember correctly, they shut this thing right down. So what he did is he turned around, he got a private operator in there and...

Murray: The one run by the government.

Allan: Pardon?

Murray: The mill was run by the government?

Allan: Yeah. Then they got another private operator in there. While that private operator was in existence, even when we were there, Joe Phelps had this idea. A fellow by the name of Knutson not related to these fellows, a fellow from Arborfield. Well old Knutson came in there and he just thought that because he was a political supporter, he was going to come in there and use all of our equipment. Because we had a cat and, see, there was a lot of work being done at Cumberland House. You want to remember we started that farm over there. There was equipment there. And also, they had engineering crews in there because they were doing a lot of ditching and diking to maintain levels because that was a good rat area. A lot of conservation work was being done. A fellow by the name of George Munro came up. He was in charge of that whole operation. He was the chief engineer with the water resources branch and they had crews in there. Now, this equipment, old Knutson just came along and thought that he could, you know, beck and call. And like Jim said to me, he said, "Jeez, I hope you back me up on this
because I said he just can't have it." And I had pointed that out, you know, "You've got to stand on your own." "Well, Joe Phelps invited me in here," and so on and we had a sort of a running battle with him. But anyhow, we were taking a fair amount of timber out of there for the DNR mill that was to be used locally and so on. Then finally this operation was phased out. The Timber Board phased this operation out, the hard-nosed guys got in there again. This other private operator, hell, he was supposed to be using local labor and he brought a bunch of guys in from the farming area, you know. He did use some people and so on, but anyhow, in a way I look back at it and say old Knutson, I sort of feel, you know, he wasn't a bad old guy. But anyhow, Jim started up a program there and sunk his money into a cooperative set up that these guys were producing at that time, pulp. And goldarn it, to look they wouldn't come out and they wouldn't scale this stuff. The money was tied up there and he underwrote a loan and, if I'm not mistaken on this, he actually had formed this cooperative and they had agreed there was going to be monies forthcoming, you see. He was going to get assistance. And they reneged on this and let him hold the bag on this whole thing. All of his money went into it and it all went down the drain. I forget who was with the Department of Co-operatives at that time, Rene...

Mrs. Quandt: Not Argent?

Allan: No, that was before, that other guy. That stocky fellow. I can't remember just the details but I know that's where Jim's money...

Mrs. Quandt: He came to La Ronge broke.

Allan: He came to La Ronge broke.

Murray: This was after he'd quit with DNR. He stayed there for a while and then came to La Ronge.

Allan: Yeah, right.

Murray: What else, Agnes?

Agnes: I just want Malcolm Norris's... I don't know anything about when he was president of the northern Metis Society.

Allan: Jeez, I can't give you that information. I think if you go to the Metis Society here now, they must have some old records that have been moved back and forth. Or probably if you go to, what was the name of the fellow that spoke there, you know, all those brothers?

Murray: How about Frank Tomkins' wife? She's still alive isn't she? Would she know?

Mrs. Quandt: His first wife?

Allan: Yeah, you mean Pete Tomkins' wife?
Murray: Yeah.

Allan: Yeah. She might remember some of these things.

Murray: Where is she? Is she in La Ronge?

Allan: No, no. She probably will move around among her children. She has quite a number of boys and that's the way Pete was doing it last. He moved. One of the boys is down at Brandon and then he'd move up and for a while there...

Murray: He's dead though, eh?

Allan: Yes.

Mrs. Quandt: We received a letter from Pete Tomkins three days after he died and we'd seen him in Prince Albert.

Murray: That was how long ago?

Allan: Oh, this is three....

Mrs. Quandt: Three years ago.

Allan: Three years ago, something like that. Who am I trying to think of, there was, I said, oh, I was trying to think of...

Murray: The boy speaking at the memorial.

Allan: Primeaus, some of the Primeaus might remember. Alec, Alec was the guy that spoke at that thing.

Murray: He's in Prince Albert?

Allan: Yeah. I remember Alec was the one that got up, everybody was really disturbed. There were a lot of white people there and he just...

Mrs. Quandt: He did a lot of lying.

Allan: He just got up there and he absolutely made a, you know, a reverse racist, you know. Now he was talking about the white people and all this. And he was talking about how Malcolm Norris was up there and he had this heart attack and the people came up from government and fired him. That wasn't true at all. Berry may have told you this, but Alec was... I can understand a little bit. Alec, see, he doesn't understand.

Mrs. Quandt: He's a sports jock.

Allan: Yeah. He's (inaudible) the whole Metis...

Murray: So he's a racist or a reversed racist depending on the...
Allan: Well, what happened is, there were a lot of people there that were friends of Malcolm's. The Wheatons were there. There were white and so on, so you know, what purpose is served for God's sake to get up and...

Mrs. Quandt: I do it all the time when I talk about these bastard white people, southern people come up here to the north in DNS. I do the same thing. But what purpose does it serve?

Allan: But at that time, here you were, there were friends of Malcolm's who were paying tribute to him and it was out of place. But then the one thing that he said and there wasn't any truth to it, he says, "And I can remember these two civil servants coming up," and again he mentioned them specifically, white, "from the Liberal government and they fired Malcolm when here he was sitting, you know,..."

Mrs. Quandt: Laying in his...

Allan: Laying at death's door because he had this heart attack and he was left paralyzed on his one side. And so, he goes ahead and he's playing this up. Now that wasn't the way it happened. It didn't happen that way at all. It was an outright fabrication. And further to that, who the hell was it that was running around getting the Liberals elected at that time?

Murray: Alec Primeau.

Allan: You damned right! See, this is the kind of...

Mrs. Quandt: What other question do you have?

Agnes: That's about it.

Murray: What happened to Malcolm's job with the government?

Allan: When the Liberals came in,...

Mrs. Quandt: They had three months or something...

Allan: They had three months to go and they just gave him early retirement.

Murray: But they even forced him out of the Friendship Centre in Prince Albert, didn't they? That's what Berry was telling me.

Allan: Yes.

Mrs. Quandt: Well, the bad thing, they told the Friendship Centre...

Allan: They wouldn't fund it.
Murray: They told them to get rid of him or they wouldn't fund it.

Mrs. Quandt: Yeah. But the one thing that I remember Malcolm — it was just such a frantic time — Mary was raped.

Murray: His wife?

Allan: Yeah.

Mrs. Quandt: She was past 50 and this man came into the Friendship Centre and she was babysitting for Malcolm. And see, Malcolm took on a job, you know, boy, I mean no way did he do a half-assed job about anything. And she was raped and he beat her. He beat her, broke all the bones in her face, and she crawled out. She had a woman's undergarment on because Mary was a very well-dressed, well-groomed woman. She was a beautiful woman and she kept her style. And he just tore her apart. And she crawled out of the building and she crawled down River Street and people didn't help her. And she crawled up the police steps on her hands and knees. And Malcolm and his two sons just about went out of their minds.

Murray: The police helped her, I presume.

Mrs. Quandt: Yeah, a hospital immediately and they had a police guard on the door. And Malcolm, you know, he loaded up a couple of rifles and he took his two sons. I don't know what he thought he was going to do.

Allan: No, but you know in circumstances like that, you don't...

Mrs. Quandt: He just went out of his mind. Here was his, you know,...

Allan: And the worst of it was that the fellow was a native.

Murray: They caught him did they?

Allan: No, never.

Murray: She didn't know who he was?

Allan: She couldn't, see, this was just...

Mrs. Quandt: She was unconscious and she was so badly beaten up. Orval Drew, the doctor, was a close friend of ours and a close friend of Norrises and he just wept when he saw this woman. Every bone in her face was broken.

Murray: She never recovered emotionally I suppose from that, eh?

Mrs. Quandt: Yeah. Mary was a strong woman.
Allan: Yeah, I'd say that Mary is a... you know, she has seen so many things....

Mrs. Quandt: No, she's on a farm in a small town, I think.

Murray: Oh, is she?

Mrs. Quandt: I have an address but I don't write to her.

(End of Side B)

(End of Tape)

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