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Father Jimmy Tompkins of Reserve Mines James Marsh, Reserve Mines: He certainly changed my life. I was a fly-by-night young fellow, you know. And when he came around here first, we didn't know anything about education. All we thought about when we were young was to get a job in the pit. There was no mention of any kind of reform. Things were pretty bleak. And he made us realize what was going on* He said we needed education and a system of self-help, cooperatives and credit unions. Of course, we had a credit union established before he came • but he was responsible for that too. He was the vice-president of St. F.X. • and he became so radical. He wanted to bring the university to the people. He said they didn't want to go to college; they just wanted to know how to get a better return for their work. He wanted all the universities of Nova Scotia to unite, to save money and get a lot of brains together. That's all he talked about • brains and develop your talents. Well, I guess the bishop didn't see eye-to-eye with him • and they transferred him to Canso with the fishermen. That didn't stop him. He realized the plight of the fishermen too • because they sold their fish for little or nothing to the merchants. Said, "Why don't you organize? Get together and form a producers' and marketing organization. Don't give it to those fellows who aren't doing a damn thing to help you. Just taking the money right out of your pocket, and food from your families." They got organized. They organized a fishermen's co-op and the Cape Breton's Magazine/6 merchants were terribly against it. But the fishermen listened to Dro Jimmy. They had short courses and study clubs. By God, they packed a crate of lobsters and sent them to Boston • they got 35 dollars for the same crate they only got 5 or 6 from the merchants • and that was the start of the co-op fishermen's organization in Nova Scotia. He was getting along all right in Canso but he kept on organizing • and Father Joe MacDonald the priest here died in 1935. Transferred Father Tompkins from Canso to Reserve Mines--see if he could keep his mouth shut • but he started telling us, "You've got to do something about your system. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. The first thing you people want to do is start reading books • books about everything • especially economics." He got books and he had them in the vestibule of the glebe house. Then he started buttonholing people to come in and read. He would announce from the pulpit that anyone interested in reading on economics, sociology and things like that • the books were in the glebe house, I didn't understand those words at first, you know. But we started to read books on the cooperative movement and about reformers like Ernest Bevin and Booker T. Washington • about self-made men. That's what Father Jimmy wanted us all to be • masters of our own destinies--to do things for themselves that other people were doing for them. That was his adult education program. He was the father of the regional library in