

blesses you. Puts that blessing on you. Puts you out. You stand there, and he tells you to dance, just like that. Boy, you got new energy. It's wonderful. See, I ain't supposed to tell you nothing like that, but I'm just telling you.

JOHN'S REASON FOR PARTICIPATING; COMMENTS ON SACRED PARAPHENALIA

(Well, I'm not trying to get you to tell me things you're not supposed to, but I don't know before you tell me. If I ask a question you shouldn't answer, I don't mind if you just say you can't answer it. There's some parts of it I have the feeling are sort of sacred, but then there's other parts that I just don't know yet whether it's considered sacred or not. But what, for example are the reasons the dancers would have to make the vow to participate in it--are they allowed to talk about that? Like, could you tell me why you decided to participate?)

Yeah. My mother, one time, she got ptomaine poisoning. The doctor just about give up on her. Couldn't save her. I had to do something. So I made a vow that if she gets all right, for her life I was going to go through that ceremony--the Sun Dance. She got well right then. The doctor had give up on her. There was other parties that was there that passed away--it was in Wyoming. They got that same ptomaine poisoning. Just as soon as I said that, she got all right... (unintelligible comments because of wind static) ... That eagle plume represents the spirit...that's the spirit of life. And that sacred bird--the highest bird we got--the eagle. It's on the American flag, flag pole, the standard. They have a eagle. And the American dollar's got that eagle on there. "In God we trust." The Indian, he's had that all along. It's been handed down since the world started... And that (referring to things in the top of the center pole) chief, that buffalo head--did you