

# Nixon Sees Refugees In Austria

(Story also on page one.)  
 VIENNA, Austria, Dec. 20 (AP)—Vice President Nixon spent a full day today talking with officials and refugees as he sought to inform himself on the Hungarian refugee situation.  
 Nixon began the day with a formal visit to 83-year-old President Koerner. He brought a letter from President Eisenhower praising Austria's care of the refugees, and an autographed photo of the President. He also saw Chancellor Julius Raab and other top Austrian officials.  
 Then his 13-car convoy sped east from the capital, toward the Hungarian border. Security officials had advised strongly against a peek through the Iron Curtain, and Nixon did not actually reach it.

Without telling anyone in advance, however, the vice president's car went all the way to Andau, a village at the easternmost tip of Austria where the bulk of the refugees have been coming through. The frontier is only two miles away.  
 1,500 Daily  
 Officials said hundreds came last night. About 1,500 arrive every day along the 150-mile frontier.

Nixon went first to Andau's dance hall, now a Red Cross center with multicolored crepe paper streamers still hanging from the rafters. There were tens of thousands of refugees here had their first taste of the free world's hospitality—soup and beds of straw.  
 Red Cross workers said they still do not have beds. Nixon tasted some of the soup to see if it was good.  
 Transportation has now improved, and most refugees go to more comfortable camps the next day after their first night here.  
 Shakes Hands

Hundreds of refugees crowded around the vice president and he had a few words and a handshake for as many as he could reach.  
 It was at Andau that he met a legless boy from Budapest who has only one arm. Nixon wished him luck in his project to get to America. He explained to reporters that he could not take up individual cases himself but would see that all requests are passed on.

At the village school he found dozens of families lodged in the classrooms, with babies being fed out of American baby food cans. He handled some of the babies for the photographers, and shook hands with dozens of parents.  
 The American political habit of all-around handshaking appeared to astonish the refugees.  
 "If — Hungarian Premier Janos — Kadar did anything like that," said one, "the people would tear him into little pieces."

The vice president lunched with Gov. Johann Wagner of the Burgenland border province in the big orange-yellow Esterhazy Palace that now houses the provincial government. He praised Austrian generosity in helping the refugees.  
 Russian Barracks  
 He visited two other camps. The first was at Eisenstadt, in a group of apartment houses evacuated only a year ago by Russian occupation forces. Then he went to Traiskirchen, where thousands of refugees are housed in an old artillery school that also was a Russian barracks.

At Traiskirchen he interviewed half a dozen teen-agers who had taken part in the fighting against the Russians.  
 "What made you do that?" he asked repeatedly.  
 The reply was usually: "We were just fed-up," or, "We wanted a better life."  
 Merry Christmas  
 The vice president had learned the Hungarian words for "hello" and "merry Christmas" and he used these many times in his contacts with the refugees.

The Christmas party was the last event on the day's program. In the evening, Nixon was guest at a dinner given by Chancellor Raab.  
 Tomorrow the vice president will visit a refugee camp in a Vienna school. He will confer with Austrian officials, who are expected to tell him of the strain the refugee flood has put on Austria's economy. He will have a look at U. S. installations in the capital.

After a reception by U. S. Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson, Nixon will leave by special train for Salzburg and a visit to refugee camps in that area, and then take off for Munich, Germany.



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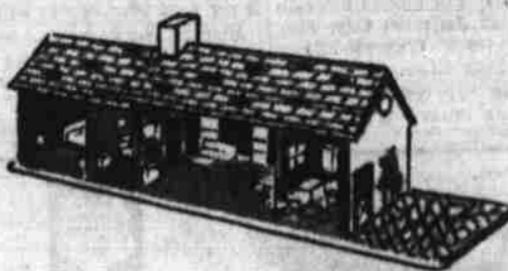


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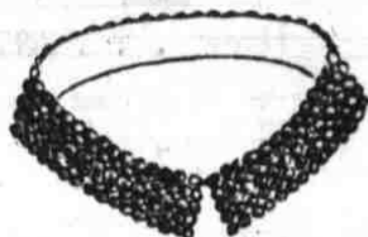
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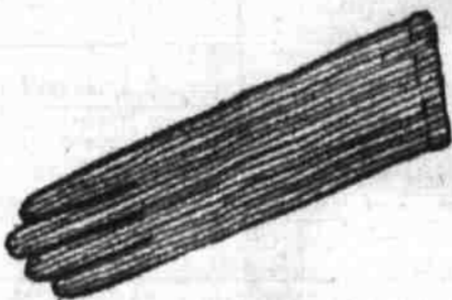


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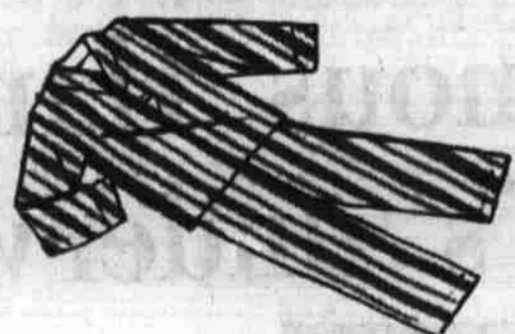
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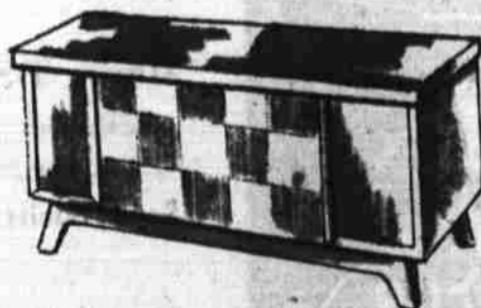


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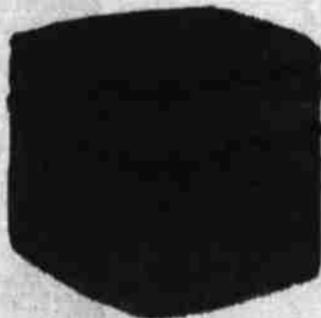


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