

Families Stunned, Angry at Sentencing of Americans

By UNITED PRESS

Families across the nation were stunned and angry today as they learned their sons and husbands had been sentenced as spies in Communist China.

At least one bitter wife asked why the United States or United Nations had not already secured her husband's release. All of them doubled their resolve to fight for the prisoners' freedom.

Many relatives reported sadly that they had recently received the first letters from the prisoners, raising their hopes that they would soon be released.

In many cases, the letters were the first concrete proof the men were alive.

News of the sentencing of two civilian Army employees, John Thomas Downey, New Britain, Conn., and Richard George Fecteau, 27, Lynn, Mass., was their families' first evidence that they were still alive.

Downey's mother Mrs. Mary B. Downey, said she had had "no hope whatsoever" until Tuesday's news. The Fecteau family pleaded for congressional help to determine whether he is really alive.

The pretty wife of Air Force Capt. Elmer Llewellyn summed up many of the families' bitterness.

Mrs. Llewellyn said at Missoula, Mont., she had carried her fight for her husband's release to the United Nations, President Eisenhower and the American Legion, and "now I get hit by this."

"The United Nations hasn't done one single thing that I know of to get those boys released," she said tearfully.

At Clayton, N.Y., the wife of Capt. Eugene J. Vaadi said he wrote her only two weeks ago he hoped to be home soon.

Mrs. Mary Vaadi, who hasn't seen her husband for five years, added "This makes it pretty hard... this waiting and waiting doesn't work."

A letter from Maj. William H. Baumer to his mother, Mrs. Mary Baumer, at Lewisburg, Pa., had also implied she would see him again soon.

"I don't know what to do," she said. "Maybe I'll appeal to the American people to try to do something to obtain the release of these men."

Other letters had been received recently by the families of Airman Harry Benjamin Jr., at Worthington, Minn.; Sgt. Howard Brown, at St. Paul, Minn.; Airman Daniel Schmidt, at Redding, Calif.; Lt. Wallace Brown, at Banks, Ala.; Col. John K. Arnold at Montgomery, Ala.; Airman Steve Kiba at Akron, O.; and Airman John Thompson at Orange, Va.

Television May Speed Railroad Shipments

Buffalo, N.Y. —(U.P.)— A new customs procedure for railroads involving television may save three days of travel time in shipments between Chicago and New York.

Harold R. Becker, customs inspector, said a six-month test was begun Oct. 1 and so far was proving successful. The experiment is being made on trains through Canada from Detroit to Buffalo.

The procedure provides the sealing of freight cars by the railroads instead of delaying the trains for customs inspections. Under the plan, trains routed through Canada cross from Detroit to Windsor, Ont., and there railroad men seal each car in the presence of American and Canadian officials.

When the train leaves Canada at Ft. Erie or Niagara Falls, it moves slowly through the railroad yards and the seals are inspected by customs officials. Eventually, it is hoped, television cameras will be used to make this part of the job easier.

Before the experiment was begun, freight cars entering Canada underwent extensive customs inspection, which caused some delay. The new plan is being tried by the Michigan Central Railroad for trains between Chicago and New York, and if successful, will be expanded to other lines.

Family Sized Farms Said Here To Stay

Chicago —(U.P.)— Family-size farms are here to stay despite the trend toward fewer and bigger farms that has come with three decades of mechanization, the magazine National Live Stock Producer reports.

Analyzing 1950 census figures, the magazine found that nearly 80 per cent of all commercial farms fall into a family-scale class and that these farms produce nearly 70 per cent of all farm products sold.

"That's mighty strong evidence," the magazine concluded, "that family-size farms are still the backbone of America's great agricultural industry."

For its study, the National Live Stock Producers considered a family-size farm those with annual sales between \$1,200 and \$25,000.

Old German Custom Will Be Revived In Bible Program

An old German custom is being revived in Medford as part of a program of Bible emphasis between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The custom began on the first Sunday in Advent, when German families used to hang a large green wreath in the window, and added a paper star each day, on which was a Biblical verse.

A similar wreath has been prepared by the local Bible emphasis committee, and will be placed in the window of the Crystal White Star cleaning office at 102 East Main st. A portion of the daily Bible readings suggested for use during the pre-Christmas season will be displayed on a scroll in the center of the wreath, and stars with Bible references will be added.

Suggests Revival
The committee, which is co-operating with the American Bible society, the Medford Ministerial association and the Medford Council of Church Women, said it hopes the old custom will be revived by individuals in Medford, and urged that young people of the Sunday schools be encouraged to produce such wreaths in their own homes.

Copies of the list of Bible references will be available and the daily suggested Bible readings will be published in The Mail Tribune.

EOCE Young Republicans Angry Over Lack of Medford Invitation

La Grande—(U.P.)—The Young Republican club of Eastern Oregon College of Education threatened today to withdraw from the state Young Republican Federation because it wasn't invited to attend the group's recent convention in Medford.

Arthur Hartgraves, local club chairman, said "the apparent deliberate failure of the state federation officers to invite EOCE Young Republicans to attend the recent state convention in Medford has forced the executive board... into an agonizing reappraisal of whether we shall continue to remain active within the federation."

Plans Undecided
Hartgraves said that "until our plans have been reorganized it is at present unknown whether we shall (1) attend the state college league convention or (2) boycott it as a means to voice our intense disapproval of the treatment we have received from the Young Republicans west of the Cascades."

Sherwood Tavern Man Killed in Auto Mishap

Tigard, Ore. —(U.P.)— Richard Colfelt, 41-year-old Sherwood tavern operator, was killed early today when his car left Highway 99 and rolled over three times, state police reported. The accident happened near the Tualatin river bridge.

Stolen federal government property valued at \$2,887,437, was recovered by the Army's military policemen during the past year.

ment for the Vanport flood protective system have been authorized, but no funds have been made available for the actual work.

The railroad embankment which protects Vanport on the west from the waters of the Columbia river "is as vulnerable now as it was before the 1948 flood, when it broke before the rising waters, even though the break has since been repaired," Colonel Moorhead said.

Vanport Claimed Still Flood Hazard

Portland —(U.P.)— Col. J. U. Moorhead, district army engineer, yesterday warned that the Vanport area, one of the sites proposed for Portland's \$8,000,000 exposition and recreation center, was still "a potential flood hazard."

Col. Moorhead, in a letter to Portland's Mayor Fred Peterson, said he felt that those charged with making final selection of the recreation site "should be informed of the potential flood hazard which still exists" in the Vanport area.

The colonel said improve-

Shasta Dam is the world's second largest concrete structure (after Grand Coulee). To create the vast Shasta Lake this dam holds back three rivers, Sacramento, McCloud and Pit. It stores enough water to provide 9,000 gallons for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Vishinsky's Body Arrives in Paris

Paris —(U.P.)— The body of Andrei Y. Vishinsky was brought here today for a brief airport ceremony of homage and then was flown on to Moscow on the Soviet diplomat's last trip behind the Iron Curtain.

The plane carrying Vishinsky's body home from New York arrived here shortly before noon and official France arranged the ceremony for the Soviet spokesman whose invective traced the pattern of Josef Stalin's cold war against the West.

Vishinsky will be buried in Moscow near the tomb of his Communist masters.

A hundred stalwarts from French Communist organizations and Iron Curtain countries formed a stiff black line in homage as Soviet Ambassador Sergei A. Vinogradov and other officials helped Vishinsky's weeping widow and daughter from the plane.

Prospect of Dinner Attracts at Center

Camp White—The prospect of Thanksgiving dinner at the domiciliary seems to be more inviting than five day leaves available to members in good standing. Only one member of Company A accepted the offer and but 10 Company 1 men took off for the holiday.

Manager Ricker and most of the personnel likewise will remain "at home." Dr. and Mrs. C. K. Todd will be in Portland until Monday.



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