



ENDING FLIGHT from capital, President Eisenhower (left), is greeted by brother, Edgar, at McChord Air Force Base, near Tacoma where he will be Edgar's guest.

## Chinese Peasants Being Herded Into Giant 'Communes'

Tokyo (UPI)—What may be the greatest reshuffling of human beings in the history of the world is now in full swing inside Red China, according to well-documented sources here.

With remarkable speed, the Communist regime is herding a half-billion Chinese peasants into newly-formed "People's Communes."

The movement began only last April, yet by the end of October it already had engulfed some 500,000,000 peasants.

This means that the Communist government probably will have completed the whole sweeping movement, carrying one-fifth of the world's population in its path, in a mere seven months.

Eventually, China's rural masses will be organized along military lines in giant communes averaging 20,000 members. Each commune will be a self-contained unit, responsible for agriculture, industry, trade, education and military training within its boundaries.

Unit of Future Society Peiping describes the communes as "the primary unit of the future Communist society." They are designed to wipe out "certain last vestiges of private ownership of the means of production."

In fact, they are a long step ahead of the Soviet Union's collective farms in size, in the

all-embracing scope of their responsibilities and in their goal of communizing all property in three to six years.

How does this affect the individual peasant? For Wang Hseuh-Chen, a rice farmer of Tonan Province, it means sudden transformation into a full-time coal-miner or iron worker.

He will become a specialized worker in a production brigade, drawing a regular salary.

His last few pigs, a cabbage patch and some apple trees will be handed over to the commune. For the present, at least, Wang will be permitted to keep a few chickens, his pet cat and his blue cotton clothing.

Wang will get a maximum of two days off each month, 24 a year. His wife will get three rest days a month, and when she's having her babies, she will rate a full month's leave from the fields.

Actually, the changeover affects Wang's wife more deeply than it does him.

In Honan Province, pilot area for the communes, she is one of 7,000,000 women who were "freed" for manual labor with the establishment of a network of communal nurseries and kindergartens to tend her children, mess halls to feed her and her husband and tailoring teams to take care of the family's mending.

Their Major Upheaval The advent of the "People's Communes" marks the third major upheaval in Wang's life in the space of eight years.

In 1950, when Mao Tse-tung and his "agrarian reformers" came to power, Wang got a small plot of farmland. Five years later, a suddenly resentful Chinese peasantry was swept into cooperatives and Wang lost the land.

Then, last April, China established its first commune — the "sputnik" commune in Honan Province. Wang's cooperative and 26 others were merged into this giant unit of 44,000 persons.

Wang still had some "vestiges of the means of production" — his pigs, his garden patch and his trees. Now, these will go to the commune.

Throughout China this massive consolidation is underway. It will reduce 750,000 farm cooperatives to 25,000 communes.

The big new units are more manageable than the comparatively small cooperatives, and this is the major reason for their creation.

Can Draw Laborers When the state wants to build a dam or dig a canal or lay a stretch of railway, it can now draw as many laborers from a single commune as it did from two or three dozen cooperatives.

What is the reaction of Wang and the rest of China's half-billion peasants — to this swift reorganization?

If one is to believe Radio Peiping, "the new development is being acclaimed at joyous gatherings. Drums and cymbals are sounded and crackers exploded to mark the opening of a new chapter in the peasant's life."

But however he actually does feel, Wang will have to accept the communes, for the regime has staked China's future on them.

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<b>Orange Juice</b> Town House brand, fcy. No. 2 quality. Stock up & save. tin	<b>2.39</b>	<b>4.75 5 for</b>
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