

## Four Tattered Korean Reds, Found In Alley, Don't Want to Fight Anyone

(EDITORS: Most of the thousands of anti-Communist prisoners who fled from Allied prison camps last week are hiding, cold and frightened, wherever they have been able to find shelter. Associated Press staff writer Robert Gibson waded through Pusan's muddy alleys to make the contacts which led to an interview with four escaped prisoners hiding in the drafty cloakroom of a ramshackle church.)

By ROBERT GIBSON  
PUSAN, Korea (AP) — Four tattered, weary North Koreans who escaped Thursday from an Allied prison camp said Wednesday they didn't want to fight anyone. They

just want to go back to their farms.

The four are fearful men of little hope.

They have not seen their families since 1950 when war swept them from their quiet rice fields. They don't know whether their wives and children are alive.

But as they sat huddled in a drafty cloakroom behind the chapel of a ramshackle Christian Church here their leader spoke for all when he said:

"We do not want to fight the Communists any more than we wanted to fight South Koreans. We do not like to fight."

"I want a farm. I want my family. I do not want prison again."

The leader is a man of 50 with deep, tired eyes and a shock of thick hair. His companions are

young. All wear tattered T-shirts discolored after their escape from prison camp No. 9 near Pusan.

"At night we hear sermons through the wall," the leader said. "I am not a Christian. Neither are my friends."

To talk with these escaped prisoners you walk through Pusan's muddy alleys and only at night, if you are an American. The paths smell strongly of packing box houses that hum at night with the chatter of too many occupants.

Here, in the squalor of Asia's worst poverty, these four former farmers await their next move. They think it will be enlistment in the South Korean Army, even though they don't want to fight.

"Now I look for just a place to go," the leader said, "my friends the same thing. The ROK Army

has a place for us. That is where we will go. There is no other place."

He said his membership in an anti-Communist prison camp club would mean his death in North Korea. He is afraid that a South Korean Communist agent will kill

him regardless of where he goes.

But above all, he fears that American military police will take him back to prison.

The leader said he gave himself up to American troops in November, 1950 — the first opportunity he found.

In a stockade on Kojima Island off South Korea he found himself with both Communist and anti-Communist prisoners.

"I was neither," he said. "But I joined the anti-Communist group because it was stronger in my compound."

After the bloody Kojima riots a year ago the anti-Communist prisoners were moved to camps on the mainland.

"Here we were more restful," the leader said. "And things were better."

At 2 a.m. Thursday another prisoner tapped him on the shoulder and whispered:

"We are climbing over the fence and you will not be shot at. We are escaping."

"I got up surprised and saw that everyone else was leaving. So I left too."

## Patterson Mum on '54

THE DALLES (AP) — Gov. Paul Patterson said here Wednesday it is too early for him to decide whether to oppose Earl Newberry for the Republican nomination for governor in 1954.

Newberry announced his candidacy Wednesday in the course of a speech at Sacramento.

"Everybody in Oregon knows I'm going to run for governor, so it doesn't matter," Newberry said after disclosing his intention before the Western regional convention of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

Patterson, who is here for the state Disabled American Veterans encampment, said, "I'm just concentrating on being governor now. I'm getting around meeting the people. I'll decide my future plans later."

He also said no significance should be attached to the fact his Hillsboro home is up for sale.

"It's a four-bedroom house, and my family is grown. When I return to Hillsboro, I'll probably build a smaller house," he said.

## De Gasperi Vote Test Succeeds

ROME (AP) — In the first test votes of Italy's new Parliament, Premier Alcide De Gasperi's center government coalition easily elected its candidates Thursday to the presidencies of both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

Both received substantial majorities.

Despite his easy preliminary victories Thursday, most observers figure De Gasperi's pro-American and pro-NATO policy faces a rocky road. Gains by both the Communists and their Socialist allies on the left, and by the Fascists and Monarchists of the right in the April elections cut the government's hitherto overwhelming majorities to only 16 in the 590-member chamber and seven in the 24-seat Senate.

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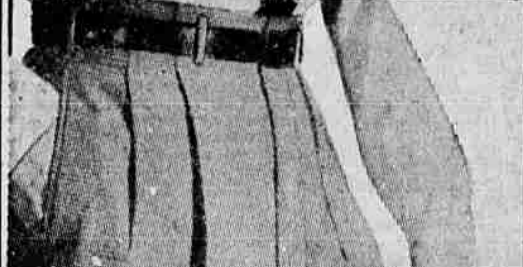
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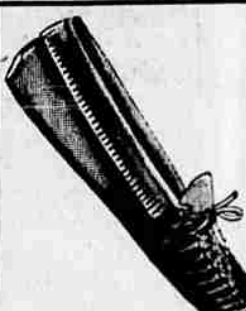
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29-42

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