

Welcome Home:

Tears, Cheers for Freed POWs in California



Reunion:

Air Force Lt. Col. Alan A. Brunstrom was embraced Wednesday by his wife, Helen, and their daughter upon his arrival at Travis Air Force Base. Brunstrom was a prisoner of war for nearly seven years prior to being freed earlier this week. (UPI Telephoto)

Morning Capsules

Big Marijuana Bust

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The largest shipment of marijuana seized in U.S. history — an estimated eight tons — was found Wednesday when federal agents raided a Mexican freighter in Los Angeles Harbor.

U.S. Customs Special Agent Mel Johnson said the captain of the 150-foot Don Miguel had been "detained" along with 13 crewmen and five men from an oceangoing tug that accompanied the ship to Los Angeles.

Johnson said the manifest listed 384 crates of coffee but a sampling of the cargo indicated they contained marijuana.

Casino Price Cuts

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Six Nevada hotels and casinos operated by Howard Hughes properties have agreed to roll back prices for failure to obey rules of the Federal Economic Stabilization Program, the Cost of Living Council reported.

The Hughes organization, headquartered in Houston, said price reductions will be made immediately and customer refunds in the form of lower prices will be made on or before April 15 at the Silver Slipper, Landmark Hotel, Desert Inn, Castaways Casino and Paradise Valley Country Club in Las Vegas and Harolds Club in Reno.

The announcement followed investigations by the Internal Revenue Service, the enforcement arm of the government wage-price control program.

Departs for Peking

HONG KONG (UPI) — Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger left Hong Kong for Peking this morning for three days of consultations with Chinese leaders.

Kissinger's plane left at 10:15 a.m. (6:15 p.m. PST Wednesday) after two days' rest and relaxation in the colony.

It was announced earlier that the White House aide would go to Japan next Monday before returning to the United States.

Today's Journal

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NEVADA STATE JOURNAL

A Special Newspaper, member of United Press International. Second Class Postage paid at Reno, Nevada. Published every morning by Reno Newspapers, Inc., Box 280, 401 N. 2nd St., Reno, NV. 89504. Telephone 725-4212. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Carrier delivery in Reno, Sparks and Carson City, \$4. a month; for delivery outside these areas and by adult motor route, \$4.25 a month. By mail in Nevada, \$16 a year; other domestic points \$40 a year. Other rates on request.

TRAVIS AFB, Calif. (UPI) — After years of whistling "California Here I Come" in the gloomy night of Communist prisoner of war camps, they came home Thursday night—20 freed prisoners of war who had not seen their families for as long as seven years.

They jogged down the ramp or walked briskly, saluted, and stepped onto a red carpet spread on the tarmac.

The wife and teen-age daughter of Lt. Col. Allen Brunstrom, Tacoma, Wash., leaped from their car and literally flew the last few feet as they fell into

his arms. The three of them were oblivious to the eyes of the world watching their unabashed joy beside the droopy wings of the "Freedom

(See related stories on Pages 3, 39)

Bird." They embraced and kissed one another for the next 15 seconds, then moved to a waiting car and drove to the airport lounge.

Next was Capt. Terry Gelonek of Beale AFB, Calif. He and his wife—she weeping

without shame, he blinking back tears and waving joyously to the crowd—fell into one another's arms at the same spot where the Brunstroms embraced.

Lt. William Arcuri then came down the ramp, limping noticeably. When he spotted his wife, he stood transfixed for a moment and she fell into his arms.

As they grabbed each others' hands, Arcuri's wedding ring was twisted off his finger. His wife helped him quickly put it back on.

Then the other six POWs

leaving the flight at Travis came off the plane. A crowd of 800 persons cheered and waved small American flags.

At Clark Air Base in the Philippines, another planeload of 20 POWs lifted off a few hours later for the 10,000 mile flight to the United States.

Eleven POWs remained aboard the C-41 which carried them from the Philippines for a trip to military hospitals nearer their homes. Six of the POWs who debarked here flew to

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Reno's Morning and Sunday Newspaper

Nevada State Journal

103rd Year—No. 85 FINAL

Thursday, February 15, 1973

15c Daily—25c Sunday

Assembly Kills Liberal Birth Control Measure

By LEE ADLER
Gazette-Journal
Legislature Bureau

A bill which would permit furnishing minors with birth control information and devices without parental consent was killed Wednesday by the Assembly Welfare Committee despite the support of county and state health agencies and two state medical societies.

The action also was against the wishes of two unwed teenage mothers one of who told the committee if the bill were already law, "I wouldn't be in this predicament."

The prevailing arguments were that AB-134 would "drive a legal wedge between parent and child" and would foster sexual promiscuity and, by extension, the moral deterioration of society.

Supporters argued that increased sexual activity among youngsters is a fact of life, and they are better off getting information from responsible sources than misinformation from their friends.

They attacked the notion that it would encourage promiscuity or alienate parents and children.

Sarah Richert, coordinator of the Washoe County Family Planning Program, said most of the young people who come to see her were already sexually active and wanted information as to "how to protect themselves against unwanted pregnancy."

"Most of them do not have a relationship with their parents which allows them to discuss the fact they are having sexual relations, and there-

fore they cannot get their parents to sign a consent form," she said.

"When parents don't live up to their responsibilities, then society must assume them for them," added Donna Dixon, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Washoe County, Inc. When asked about the moral

implications of the bill, Mrs. Richert replied:

"I think we're talking about information and education. Youngsters have to get their morals from their parents."

"When these services become available through law, it does not mean that parents do not have the prime responsibility

to educate their children in these areas," said Mrs. Glen Christensen, president of the Reno - Sparks Young Women's Christian Association board of directors.

"It only means that minors will have greater opportunities

(See BIRTH, Page 2, Col. 7)

Bugner Goes Distance, Loses Decision to Ali

See Sports, Page 13

Proposed Cut in Veterans' Disability Aid Scrapped

WASHINGTON (UPI) — On orders from the White House, the Veterans Administration Wednesday withdrew a proposed multimillion-dollar cut in disability compensation for Vietnam veterans that had drawn strong protests in Congress and veterans' groups.

VA Administrator Donald E. Johnson said he was recalling drafts of proposed cutback in benefits, issued Feb. 6, on instructions from the White House that they be given "further intensive study."

Rep. W. Jennings Bryan Dorn, D-S.C., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, had introduced legislation to block the cutbacks. He said he will now introduce a bill that would freeze disability payments at their present level.

Most disabled World War II and Korean war veterans would not have been affected by the cutbacks, because present law forbids any reduction in benefits received for 20 years.

When the VA issued the proposals, the National Association of Collegiate Veterans called it "both heartless and illogical, considering the booby trap and land mine nature" of the Vietnam War. The association expressed gratitude Wednesday over the President's intervention.

The VA has explained that cutback, part of a planned \$160 million savings by the agency in the 1973-74 fiscal year, was not an economy move but was

prompted by advancements in medical treatment and rehabilitation and changing job demands.

One of the biggest cuts under the VA's revised rate schedule for physical disabilities would have applied to a veteran whose leg was amputated at the hip. This would have dropped from a 90 per cent to a 40 per cent disability, with a monthly loss of \$169 in benefits.

The collegiate veterans' association complained that most such groups believed compensation should be increased—not cut back—because of inflation and the high unemployment rate among disabled veterans.

"And any veteran having his disability rating lowered below the 50 per cent level would lose even more money because he

(See VETERANS, Pg. 2, Col. 3)

Viet Prisoners' Banners Written in Own Blood

QUANG TRI CITY, Vietnam (UPI) — Communist prisoners, being ferried across the river to their comrades, Wednesday unfurled banners reading "Independence, Freedom and Victory"—some written in their own blood—for their former captors to see.

A total of 175 Communist POWs all sick or disabled, were released Wednesday at Quang Tri City in the northern part of South Vietnam. Some of

them had been in prison for up to a decade.

A number of them had been scheduled for freedom a year or more ago but at that time North Vietnam refused to accept them.

But Wednesday they headed across the Thach Han River.

A flotilla of the boats used to build pontoon bridges waited at the river's edge, each boat equipped with a 40 horsepower outboard motor for the 200-yard

trip across the swift flowing river.

But the boats were equipped with South Vietnam's red striped gold flag and when the Communist prisoners saw the banners, they refused to climb aboard.

For 20 minutes, truce supervisors and captors argued in vain. Then a Viet Cong officer was brought across from the other side of the river to tell them to disregard the govern-

ment flags.

As the boats pulled away, the prisoners stripped off their maroon prison pajamas, sandals, bandages, slings, and crutches and hurled them into the river.

Some pulled out and displayed contraband banners they had secretly made at the Bien Hoa prison camp and hidden under their bandages. They read "Independence, Freedom and Victory" in neatly lettered

Vietnamese script.

Others, who had no banners, slashed their legs and used their blood and bandages to fashion a makeshift banner during the five-minute boat trip.

Viet Cong soldiers on the opposite bank cheered and applauded each arriving boat. Some of the welcoming party waded out into the water and lifted the prisoners from boats and carried them to shore.

Joint Commission to Distribute American Aid

North Vietnam Rebuilding Plan Unveiled

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States and North Vietnam Wednesday announced creation of a Joint Economic Commission to channel American dollars into rebuilding the war-torn Communist nation severely damaged by American air strikes.

The Indochina war enemies also agreed to establish new procedures for locating men missing in action throughout the region.

A joint communique issued in Washington and Hanoi following four days of talks in Hanoi between President Nixon's peace envoy, Henry A. Kissinger, and North Vietnamese leaders said.

"The two sides exchanged views on the manner in which the United States will contribute to healing the wounds of war and to post-war economic reconstruction in North Vietnam."

"They agreed to establish a DRVN-U.S. Joint Economic Commission. This Commission, which will be composed of an equal number of representatives from each side, will be charged with the task of developing the economic relations between the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam and the United States."

State Department officials said they envision the joint commission as a conduit for

economic aid to all four Indochina states from the Soviet Union, China, Japan and Western Europe as well as from the United States. These officials envisioned a multilateral program, possibly coordinated by the United Nations or the World Bank.

The communique mentioned only American aid, but the wording may have been a compromise between North Vietnamese demands for "repa-

rations" and a U.S. proposal for humanitarian aid from many givers.

No specific dollar figure was indicated and any U.S. aid funds would have to be approved by Congress. Nor was there any hint of restrictions on the use of the money such as a prohibition on rebuilding military installations heavily damaged by U.S. bombing, especially the intensified air strikes in the final days of the war.

The statement said both sides pledged that the Jan. 27 ceasefire agreement negotiated in Paris by Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho would be adhered to "fully and scrupulously."

Kissinger was in Hanoi from Saturday through Tuesday. He met for 19 hours with North Vietnamese leaders, 14 with a delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong and five alone with Tho.