

Payment Halted On 14 Contracts

Pro-Reds Turned Loose

By BILL SHINN

PANMUNJOM (Saturday) (AP) — The Korean war prisoners who stirred world wide controversy by their refusal to go home were turned loose today.

Twenty-one Americans, one Briton and 327 South Koreans who chose communism were abandoned by Indian guards in a flimsy neutral zone compound at 12:01 a. m. (10:01 a. m. EST Friday).

The pro-Red POWs said they would stay until their food runs out. They echoed the demand of the Communist command that Indian troops stay on.

The UN command liberated as civilians the nearly 22,000 anti-Red captives returned to it Wednesday by the Indian command—a course the Allies assert was required by the armistice.

Gen. John E. Hull, UN Far East commander, announced liberation of the anti-Red POWs.

20 GUARDS ON WATCH

In abandoning the pro-Communist prisoners, the Indian troops simply pulled back to their headquarters, with the last soldier opening the compound's inner gate.

About 20 Indian guards remained in the area to see that none of the prisoners was "kidnapped," an Indian spokesman said.

When official freedom came, more than 14,000 Chinese anti-Red POWs already were aboard American ships en route to Chinese Nationalist Formosa. More than 7,500 anti-Communist North Koreans were in South Korean army reception centres.

REDS STAY IN BEDS

An Indian officer said the pro-Communist north camp was "absolutely quiet." There was no celebration among the Koreans. A (Please turn to Page 2, No. 5)

Hospital Here To Be Special Centre For Polio

A Lakehead hospital will be designated this spring by the Ontario department of health as a special polio treatment centre, it was learned today.

The information was contained in a letter to Frank Bowman of Hudson, Ont., president of the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chamber of Commerce, who was in Toronto recently interviewing government officials on resolutions passed at the annual convention of the Chambers body last September.

One of the conventions called for a Northwestern Ontario polio treatment centre which would

BODY EXHUMED

Arrest Widow Charge Murder

BELLEVILLE (CP) — Mrs. Mary Bell, 48-year-old widow of a Belleville engineer whose body was exhumed from his grave seven days after he died, was arrested today on a charge of murder.

She was taken into custody by Belleville city police, apparently acting on orders from the Ontario Provincial Police who have been investigating the death of the 52-year-old Belleville engineer for several weeks.

MADE EXAMINATION

An examination of stomach contents of Percy Bell was made at the Provincial Police crime laboratory at Toronto. Although the result has not been disclosed, published reports have said Bell may have died of strychnine poisoning.

Mrs. Bell was to appear in court here later today on the charge. She will be remanded.

Mrs. Bell appeared composed as she was led from her home by police after two hours of questioning and asked assembled press photographers: "Do you want a picture?"

John Lennox, Belleville lawyer who has been retained by Mrs. Bell, arrived at the Bell home 10 minutes after the arrival of police about 9 a. m.

The woman recently told interviewers that before her husband's death she bought strychnine for him to mix rat poison. She said that he mixed the poison in the basement of their home as he always had and put it between two slices of bread.

Her arrest climaxed more than two weeks of police investigation under Inspector Frank Kelly of the criminal investigation branch of the OPP.

He and Inspector Clare Hayes of the Belleville city police went to her Belleville home and took her into custody about 11 a. m. She was taken to police headquarters and charged with murder.

BODY EXHUMED

Bell died Jan. 2 and a doctor at the time ascribed his death to a cerebral haemorrhage. However the attorney-general's department, after communication with Bell's relatives, ordered the body exhumed.

Seven days after Bell died grave diggers dug into the frozen ground at the cemetery at Napanee where he had been buried 25 miles east of Belleville. Police stood by to supervise the disinterment.

Inspector Kelly was assigned to systematic check of the poison-book records of neighborhood drug stores and seized some of the records.

He did not talk with Bell's widow until today.

BOARDER MOVED OUT

Mrs. Bell was not told by authorities that the body of her late husband was to be disinterred. She termed it a "terrible thing" at the time and said even her boarder, Roscoe Jenners, a Belleville barber who had lived in the Bell home for some time, had moved.

Bell was said by witnesses to have died a painful death. The police investigation began after a member of the family told police that Bell had never been sick a day in his life.

Highway Projects Affected

TORONTO (CP) — The federal government has stopped payment on 14 contracts for Trans-Canada Highway construction in the Fort William district until it is established whether work covered by the contracts has actually been done.

The federal and provincial governments share equally in payment of the contracts, totalling about \$10,500,000.

Works Minister Winters said in the Commons Thursday the federal payments were stopped because of charges of irregularities in the Fort William division of the Ontario highways department. He said an investigation is under way and some cases have reached the courts.

So far, the federal government has paid \$3,220,000 of its share, leaving a little more than \$2,005,000 outstanding.

Mr. Winters said Ontario is solely responsible for the construction administration.

PROBE WIDENS

Meanwhile, as the provincial government ordered an investigation of the Fort William division and promised that any wrongdoers will be prosecuted, an investigation of the Blind River division came to light and there were indications the checkup will be extended to Kenora.

Premier Frost said at a Toronto press conference the investigation by a management consultant firm not only will clear up a situation at Fort William but also will reveal whether a better job can be done in the administration of the highways department.

Highways Minister Doucett said he plans to "let the chips fall where they may" in the inquiry. He said he wants the investigation to be as complete as possible.

Five members of the highways department at Fort William are under arrest on various charges. A number of others were suspended after a preliminary investigation showed what Mr. Doucett said were "what appear to be serious alterations in official documents, plans and records."

INVESTIGATE GRADER USE

In the Blind River division, which embraces the Sault Ste. (Please turn to Page 2, No. 3)

Down Payments, Mortgages To Be Lower In Homes Plan

OTTAWA (CP) — Lower down payments on National Housing Act loans and a mortgage interest rate below six per cent are contained in the government's new housing legislation.

Works Minister Winters outlined details of the proposed NHA amendments Thursday as the measure came up for debate in the Commons.

He hinted the \$10,000 ceiling on housing loans may be increased by as much as \$2,500 or \$3,000.

Interest rates, currently 5½ per cent, are to be set later by cabinet order. Mr. Winters did not say what the new rate will be, except that it will be held below six per cent.

The legislation permits chartered banks to enter the mortgage-lending field under a plan of insured mortgages.

a lending value of \$16,000 will be more than 80 per cent of the value.

Housing experts outside the Commons said on that basis a builder could get a maximum loan of perhaps \$12,800, making the down payment about \$3,200 on a \$16,000 house. The down payment has been \$6,000.

As the new housing plan goes into effect, the government's Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will drop the current system of making loans jointly with lending institutions.

It will have power, instead, to insure a maximum of \$2,000,000,000 in loans without further parliamentary approval. Cost of insurance, two per cent in the case of houses for owner-occupancy, will be paid by the borrower.

KEEP BUILDING UP

Predict Arrest Of Contractors

TORONTO (CP)—The Telegram says today in a newspaper story arrest of contracting company executives is "imminent" in the alleged swindle in the Fort William division of the Ontario department of highways. The report was at-

ounted to \$50,000 in a fire which destroyed a building at Nipigon night. Firemen fought to stop the flames from the town's telephone. Lost in the fire were dine and dance and a suite of rooms. The fire was still Wednesday after start-day afternoon. Scenes taken during the ice formed rapidly b-zero weather.

n Minded Parley Big Four

TOM REEDY

(AP)—State Secretary into Berlin today—first Four foreign ministers for their conference Monday.

Ministers Bidault, com-France by train, and Secretary Eden, flying on, were due later today. Communist secrecy movements of Foreign Molotov, but he is ex-East Berlin by train to-

g from Washington. been cautious about the respects.

QUESTION

reporters: Soviet leaders come to th a genuine desire to nditions of peace, they us open minded and co-and we can together do d for Germany and Aus- indeed for Europe and world."

queried: "Will Germany d all Europe be unified ? Or will divisions be which will make Europe