

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS!

General Ridgway, home from European Supreme Command to become U.S. Army Chief of Staff, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that continued military-aid ^{7 increased air-power over} ~~was~~ essential.

Another home-comer, this time to New York, was William Oatis, met by his wife. Oatis was imprisoned more than two years in Czechoslovakia on spy charges. His ten year sentence was dramatically cut short when President Eisenhower appealed to the Czech President - his release another symptom of the slight letting up behind the Iron Curtain.

Rocky Marciano and Jersey Joe Walcott weighed in at Chicago before their return fight for the World Heavyweight Title. The big fight was ^a fiasco, poor old Joe down for the count in 2-and-a-half-minutes of round one. He still can't believe it.

May 19, 1953

Music: Prelude - My Own True Love - PN 283

Klein

Watson

Non

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2 YEARS IN RED PRISON ... NEWSMAN OATIS RETURNS, WIFE GREETES HIM

The Only American reporter ever imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain — William N. Oatis — met by his happy wife at New York's Idlewild Airport. He spent 25 months of imprisonment in Czechoslovakia ... a Red pardon cutting short what was to be a ten year sentence on so-called spy charges. Looking thin and pale, the 39-year-Old A.P. newsman from Marion, Indiana had said upon his release in Germany that the Czech Communists subjected him to "psychological" treatment at his trial. He tells U.S. newsmen he didn't know of Eisenhower's election ... in fact, he says:

(TALK)

Why did the Czechs release him, he's asked....(TALK)

And so William Nathan Oatis returns to freedom ... his story perhaps not yet fully told.

O T I S

INT: HOW LONG WAS THE NEWS OF EISENHOWER'S ELECTION KEPT FROM YOU?

OTIS: I DIDN'T GET ANY NEWS AT ALL UNTIL I GOT OUT OF THERE.
IT WAS A REGULATION IN THE PRISON I WAS IN.

INT: WHY DID THE CZECHS RELEASE YOU?

OTIS: I DON'T KNOW, BUT I HAVE HEARD FROM BOTH SIDES - FROM THE
CZECHS THEMSELVES AND THE AMERICAN SIDE - THE BIGGEST FACT WAS
GETTING A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OVER THERE.