



PRESIDENT NIXON AS HE ADDRESSED WAR VETERAN GUESTS
 Raid on POW camp was described in terms of a football game
 —AP Photo

POWs and Football

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — President Nixon recapitulated the futile prisoner of war rescue mission for a group of wounded Vietnam war servicemen at Thanksgiving dinner at the White House and likened it to a football game.

Army Sgt. Corris Sworn 23, of Pompano Beach, Fla., sat next to the President at a round table in the State Dining Room while Nixon described in detail the raid on a prisoner of war camp at Son Tay, 20 miles from Hanoi, last weekend.

Sworn said Nixon told them that "it's like football; you run a play and if it fails, you try again." He said the President was willing to trade 8000 North Vietnamese prisoners for "the few hundred Americans" being held by the Vietnamese Communists.

Sworn was wounded in the legs and mouth by shrapnel at Quang Tri last May. He is undergoing

bone grafts at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

He said Nixon declared he would "definitely try again in the future" to rescue prisoners. But Sworn told a reporter, "I don't think he should. It's too risky."

Sworn said that Nixon, in telling of the raid, related, "We crashed a helicopter in the middle of the compound. The Green Berets spread out from there, cut the locks and killed the guards."

He said Nixon told them an air raid was staged on a nearby military installation to keep North Vietnamese soldiers pinned down while the American helicopters were landing.

He said Nixon was not discouraged the mission found no American prisoners. "If you fail, you should try again," Sworn quoted Nixon as saying.

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