

OCT 12 1971

**U.S. HELD UP LETTER
BY P.O.W. TWO YEARS**

DETROIT, Oct. 11 (AP)— Army and Congressional sources are trying to determine why a letter that a recently released prisoner of war wrote to his family more than two years ago while a captive was not delivered until a week ago.

The letter was written by S. Sgt John Sexton Jr., 23 years old, of Warren, Mich., a week after his capture in South Vietnam on Aug. 12, 1969.

John Sexton, 49, the sergeant's father, said the Army turned the letter over to him last week, a few days before his son's release Friday.

"I was pretty angry at first,"

the father said. "We thought he was unaccounted for and probably dead for those two years and here they had the letter all along."

He said the Army told him that the letter had been held up while the Army sought to determine if it really was in his son's handwriting and assessed its possible propaganda content.

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Detroit, said: "I hate to jump to any conclusions, but if this is a fact, it is shocking. Some kind of explanation is in order. It should be looked into to determine whether letters that verify that their sons are alive are being withheld from other families."