

## POW Calls Fonda Visit 'Low Point'

March Air Force Bases,  
Riverside county

Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Lewis W. Shattuck said today that the visit of former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and actress Jane Fonda to North Vietnam was probably "the lowest point" of his six years as a prisoner of war.

Shattuck, who held a news conference with three other returned prisoners of war, said the visit was demoralizing.

Colonel Raymond J. Merritt, a prisoner for seven years, said, however, he thought Clark and Miss Fonda were voicing the concern of many Americans who had doubts about the war in Vietnam when they visited Hanoi last July.

### Return

The four Air Force flyers, Shattuck, 40, of Mesa, Ariz.; Merritt, 43, of Highland, Calif.; Capt. Jerry Driscoll, 33, of Hinsdale, Ill., and Capt. John Nasnyth Jr., of South San Gabriel, Calif., returned to the U.S. February 16.

All four men, who were imprisoned for a total of 25 years, said they found the changes in America refreshing and that they noted a new awareness and questioning by people.

Shattuck said, "I think the visit of Ramsey Clark and Jane Fonda was the lowest point of my life in prison. It was very demoralizing to see those two people. Famous people, in the limelight, people who had received the benefits of our country more than most people, to see them in Vietnam, perhaps spouting the Communist line. Why go to the camp of the enemy. It's a little hard to understand. I don't understand it."

Merritt said, "I don't recall that they were un-American. Like many people in this country, they were deeply concerned about the war and spoke out those concerns."

### CHANGE

Asked about changes in the U.S., Shattuck said, "I find it refreshing. There's I think it is a vitality that is this country is all about. It might be a return to patriot."

Driscoll said, "I've gotten the impression Americans are more honest and open, and to me that's refreshing. I find people easier to talk to than what I remember in 1965-66."

Nasmyth said, "You can see the physical changes like the new styles, but there seems to be a greater awareness in people. They insist on being informed of what's going on."

Driscoll said when they were informed of the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy they thought their Communist captors had made it up.

"When we came back and found out it was true it was a little disconcerting."

Shattuck said, "I think we reached a peak of hysteria in this country in 1968-69. From what I see we're on the way to recovery."