

# POW Who Learned Compassion

Although they naturally didn't enjoy their stay in Hanoi, two returned Navy pilots said yesterday they are better men for it.

"The biggest change," Commander John B. McKamey said, "is that I'm perhaps more compassionate to my fellow man."

McKamey, shot down over North Vietnam on June 2, 1965, said "I'm also less sarcastic than I was before — I found out there are some situations where people don't appreciate sarcasm — and I have a great deal more patience . . ."

McKamey, 37, and Commander Theodore F. Kopfman, 41, both appeared fit and at ease before a press conference yesterday at the Oakland Naval Hospital.

Kopfman, shot down on June 15, 1966, agreed that he had learned compassion while imprisoned.

"I found some things about myself that I didn't like," he said. "I used to push my family, I was always rushing my wife, I could not abide anyone being late for anything . . ."

Now, he said softly, "there is very little that will ever upset me again."

Both career Navy men — who said they planned to remain in the service — argued against amnesty for draft evaders.

"There's a certain responsibility to serve when called on," Kopfman said. "I do not feel that amnesty should be considered."

"I agree completely," McKamey said. "Although I just might change my position over the years . . ."

Like other returning POWs, both men declined to comment on events "from being shot down to being released" until the last POW is home. And both approved of the country's actions in Southeast Asia.

And both have a wife and three children whom they said they hadn't had too much time to see since they were released two weeks ago.