

# 21 POWs Dine With The Governor

**Sacramento**

Governor and Mrs. Ronald Reagan entertained 21 former war prisoners at a private dinner party in the executive mansion last night with the Governor's wife hugging and kissing each of the returning POWs.

"Thank you, darling," Navy Commander Richard A. Stratton said as he picked

Nancy Reagan off her feet, and swayed back and forth in his arms. "Thank you for taking good care of my family," the veteran told her.

After planting a big kiss on his cheek, the governor's wife replied: "No, thank you. You've taken good care of us; that's the way it goes."

Before the dinner party, Reagan and his wife greeted each of the prisoners and their wives or escorts beneath a plastic red-and-white tent which shielded them from the rain outside.

Mrs. Reagan broke into tears when Navy Commander Charles E. Southwick of Seattle gave her a spoon from the prisoner of war camp where he was held since May 14, 1967.

"I hope you'll never have to eat with one of those things again," Reagan remarked.

Reagan immediately recognized Lieutenant Commander Everett Alvarez Jr., the longest held U.S. prisoner in North Vietnam. "I'm a fan of yours already from

television," the governor told the Santa Clara Navy officer.

"This has been a wish of mine for a long time," Alvarez told the governor.

*United Press*



*AP Wirephoto*

Governor Reagan watched as wife Nancy greeted with open arms Lieutenant Commander Everett Alvarez