

Release of Kurt Meyer: Ottawa, Jan. 15 (CP) -- German Maj.-Gen. Kurt Meyer will be released from prison "in some months", Mr. Claxton said today.

Meyer, serving life imprisonment for his part in the shooting of 18 Canadian prisoners-of-war in Normandy in 1944, has had his sentence commuted to 14 years, Mr. Claxton said in the Commons.

Sentence of German Sgt. Johann Neitz, serving 20 years for wounding a Canadian airman who was his prisoner, also is being commuted to 14 years.

Mr. Claxton, after two questions from Mr. Diefenbaker, said the commutation will mean that Meyer will be released in "some months" or a "year or so". He said he could not say definitely because it would depend on prison regulations at Werl in the British zone of Germany, where Meyer is serving his sentence.

There were protests from the Opposition benches when Mr. Claxton said Meyer's crime was less serious than those of other Germans who already had been released from prison.

Mr. Drew asked what crime could be more serious than to order the shooting of Canadian prisoners-of-war. Mr. Claxton replied that Meyer had not been convicted on that charge but that the shootings had taken place in an area under Meyer's command.

Meyer, now held by British authorities at Werl, was moved there from the Federal penitentiary at Dorchester, N.B.

Sentence of Meyer and other war criminals, Mr. Claxton said, had been reviewed by boards in the United States, British and French zones of Germany.

Across Canada: Saskatchewan's young oil industry grew taller in 1953, when production figures rose nearly 1,000,000 barrels ahead of 1952 output. Records were established in the number of wells drilled, footage bored and the number of new wells capable of production. Strides were made in expanding refinery capacity. Marketing problems dimmed with the promise of pipe lines, C.P. reports.... Exchange visits of high school students between French-speaking and English-speaking Canada increased last year by 32 per cent. This was reported at the annual meeting of Visites Interprovinciales, which sponsors the visits.... The great-great grandson of the man who quelled the Riel Rebellion came ashore at Halifax today the first descendant of his illustrious ancestor to come to Canada. He is 25-year-old Peter Le Mesurier whose great-great grandfather, Sir Frederick Middleton, was Commander-in-Chief of British troops sent west to battle the rebel forces of Louis Riel....

Hockey: (Saturday) -- Canadiens 2, Boston 1; Toronto 4, New York 0.

(Sunday) -- Boston 3, Canadiens 2; New York 3, Detroit 2, Toronto 3, Chicago 1.