JEHOVAH WITNESSES JOIN GRAPE BOYCOTT

The Jehovah's Witnesses agreed yesterday to a request from Cesar Chavez, director of the United Farm Workers, to cancel all future orders of California-grown grapes.

The Witnesses, who are holding a week-long international assembly at Yankee Stadium, received a telegram on Wednesday from Mr. Chavez, the leader of the nationwide grape boycott, criticizing them for their large purchase of grapes for consumption at the meeting.

And yesterday morning on the sidewalk in front of the ball park, several representatives of the grape-pickers' union distributed leaflets urging the Witnesses to join the boycott.

"For the first time [we(learned of the magnitude of the problem," John Groh, director of the "Peace on Earth" Assembly, said in a statement announcing that the Witnesses had decided to halt their purchases of grapes. The grapes, he noted "were delivered by truck drivers and railroads whose men apparently belonged to unions, and we accepted them in good faith."

The New York Times

Published: July 11, 1969 Copyright © The New York Times