

Around the Nation

United Farm Workers Strike in California

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 23 (AP) — More than 2,000 union workers at farms that produce nearly one-third of the nation's winter lettuce crop were off the job today in a strike that could mean still higher lettuce prices for consumers. Negotiators were meeting in San Diego.

The strike in the Imperial Valley of southeastern California was the largest called by the United Farm Workers of America, led by Cesar Chavez, since the farm labor law was enacted four years ago, giving the union bargaining rights.

The union is seeking a one-year pact with a 40 percent, or \$1.50 an hour, wage increase in the minimum farm labor wage of \$3.75 an hour. It is also seeking increases for tractor drivers. The growers' spokesman said the growers had offered wage and benefit increases of 7 percent for each year of a three-year contract.

EL CENTRO, Calif., Jan. 23 (UPI) — A Superior Court judge ordered about 500 striking farm workers today to return to two of the four Imperial Valley lettuce fields being struck. Marshall Ganz, the strike coordinator, said that the United Farm Workers union was awaiting a copy of the order and declined to speculate on whether the workers would obey it.

Customs Agent Arrested In Alleged \$5 Million Theft

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 23 (UPI) — A United States customs agent was arraigned before a Federal magistrate today on charges he stole \$5 million in jewelry from mailed packages he opened for inspection in the last 20 years.

Magistrate Harvey Schneider set bail at \$100,000 for Francisco Terredanio, 54 years old, of Whittier, Calif. Mr. Terredanio has been a customs employee for 20 years and was said to be a few months from retirement. His salary was \$17,500 a year.

Mr. Terredanio was arrested last night on a warrant at his home. Postal inspectors said they confiscated from 700 to 1,000 pieces of jewelry.

In presenting the charges, Assistant United States Attorney Bert Deixler said the defendant had averaged taking about \$1,000 worth of jewelry each working day. The defendant's lawyer said that Mr. Terredanio denied the charges.

2 Tennessee Convicts Argue They Should Be Freed

NASHVILLE, Jan. 23 (AP) — A murderer and a robber argued in separate courts today that their sentences were legally commuted by former Gov. Ray Blanton and that they were being illegally held in prison under orders of Mr. Blanton's successor, Lamar Alexander.

Criminal Court Judges John Draper and Raymond Leathers said they would rule on requests by Fred Smith, the convicted murderer, and Joseph Warren McKenna, the robber, that they be freed from prison immediately.

"I would submit that the Governor is defying an order of the judiciary of this state," said David Pack, lawyer for the

man sentenced in August 1977 to 10 years in prison for murdering his wife.

Across the hall, Judge Leathers heard the plea of Mr. McKenna, sentenced in July 1973 to 35 years in prison for robbery with a deadly weapon.

The judge was told that Gov. Alexander's inauguration last Wednesday, three days before schedule, was improper because the Legislature had not approved the early ceremony. Two days earlier, Mr. Blanton, commuted the sentences of 49 prisoners and pardoned three others.

Leukemia Victim's Parents Lose Fight on Treatment

Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, Jan. 23 — A Superior Court judge today ordered the parents of Chad Green, a 3-year-old leukemia victim, to stop treating him with what physicians call "metabolic therapy," which the doctors said was poisoning the child.

The State Attorney General's office, representing the State Welfare Department, which has protective custody of the child, sought the order.

Laboratory tests ordered by the court last week reportedly showed there was evidence of cyanide poisoning in Chad, which medical authorities attributed to the use of laetrile and heavy doses of vitamin A. A previous court order denied Chad's parents, Gerald and Diana Green of Scituate, Mass., the right to prevent their son from undergoing chemotherapy prescribed by physicians. Chad's leukemia is currently in remission.

In the recent court hearings, physicians testifying for the state stated that the Greens' use of "metabolic therapy" could result in brain, nerve and organ damage to the boy if the situation was not remedied.

The court order today permits the Greens to keep Chad on a natural food diet while submitting him to periodic tests at Massachusetts General Hospital. Chad will continue to live with his parents.

University at Stony Brook Gets Marketing Grant

The Warner-Lambert Company, a major concern in the field of health care, has given \$960,000 to the State University College at Stony Brook, L.I., to study the feasibility of marketing a substance that is believed to reduce tooth decay.

William Logan, manager of professional relations for the company, which is situated in Morris Plains, N.J., said that the grant would cover a six-year period and was based on a discovery made three years ago by Dr. Israel Kleinberg, head of the department of oral biology and pathology in the university's School of Dental Medicine.

Under the grant agreement, the college will do basic research and development on a peptide that occurs naturally in the mouth. Dr. Kleinberg, who discovered the peptide, started his research while at the University of Manitoba in Canada. He named his discovery Sialin and succeeded in synthesizing it so it can be produced chemically.

Dr. Kleinberg received worldwide attention in 1974 as the developer of a camera that takes ultraviolet photographs permitting the discovery of caries before they became apparent to the naked eye.



United Press International

FARMERS HEAD FOR WASHINGTON: Farm vehicles moving along Route 40 outside St. Louis yesterday. Farmers were protesting low prices.

The New York Times

Published: January 24, 1979

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