

Around the Nation

Chavez Ends the Boycotts Of Lettuce, Grapes, Wine

KEENE, Calif., Jan. 31 (UPI)—Cesar Chavez today ended the nationwide boycotts by the United Farm Workers Union against lettuce, table grapes and Gallo wine.

Mr. Chavez said the boycotts of the E & J Gallo Vineyards, begun in 1973; of table grapes, also since 1973, and of lettuce, begun in 1970, were instrumental in winning labor contracts for his union and also helped foster the labor relations law in California.

"Despite the temporary setbacks and continued maladministration, the Agricultural Labor Relations Acts is alive and functioning, and the farm workers look upon 1978 with cautious optimism," the union leader said. He cited the more than 100 contracts his union has signed with California growers since 1975 as evidence the law was working.

He said the farm workers executive board voted to end the boycotts "in the spirit of this cautious optimism."

The table grape boycott began when the teamsters' union signed contracts with many California growers after the original United Farm Workers contracts expired. Mr. Chavez's union began the boycott against lettuce growers after a strike against Salinas lettuce growers was broken by court injunctions. The boycott against Gallo wines was launched when the vineyard signed a labor contract with the teamsters, after the farm workers struck upon expiration of their contract.

Major Spill of Oil Follows Collision Off Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 31 (UPI)—Thousands of gallons of crude oil oozed into the Gulf of Mexico today from a 300-foot barge that received an 8-foot gash in a collision with an oilfield supply boat.

The spill occurred about 20 miles from the south Louisiana coast, near the entrance to the Atchafalaya Bay. However, a Coast Guard spokesman, A. T. Wolf, said a 20-knot wind was pushing it steadily away from shore.

Mr. Wolf said most of the 220,000 gallons of crude oil contained in the compartment that was ripped open had been spilled. Bad weather prevented reconnaissance flights that would give more precise information, but it was classified as a "major oil spill" and pollution threat by the Coast Guard.

No injuries were reported in the collision, which occurred early today and which involved the M. V. Ionian Seahorse, a 186-foot supply boat, and Domar Barge 6501. The Ionian Seahorse also suffered a gash in the collision, Mr. Wolf said, but was in no danger. He said weather and visibility at the time of the accident were good.

Pittsburgh School Awards Letters for Scholarship

Special to The New York Times

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 31—Oliver High School awarded varsity letters today to 126 sophomores, juniors and seniors. But they are not athletes; they are scholars.

Edward D. Ray, principal, decided that some other students deserved the same recognition given athletes. So the block "O" traditionally awarded to Oliver athletes went to students who attained the honor roll at least three times last year, including the final report period.

The only difference is that the lamp of learning insignia augments the "O" awarded to the scholars. Their letters can be worn on sweaters or jackets just as the athletes wear them.

"We feel that schools are for education and there is a need to motivate students," Mr. Ray said following an assembly at which the varsity letters were presented. Oliver is the only school here to make such awards.

New Hampshire Governor Lauds South African Effort

CONCORD, N.H., Jan. 31 (AP)—Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr. of New Hampshire said today that on his 11-day tour of South Africa he found the Government was trying to improve the life of blacks in the nation.

"The Government is working hard to bring roads, schools and hospitals to the black people," Mr. Thomson told a news conference, praising Prime Minister John Vorster.

Mr. Thomson added, however, that "this does not mean that I endorse apartheid" or other violations of freedoms by the Government. Nonetheless, he said, "We should not be pointing the finger of scorn."

He described South Africa's racial problem as "far greater than we have in America, and problems for which we have not yet found the perfect solution."

The news conference came three days after Mr. Thomson returned from the trip, paid for by the South African Freedom Foundation, a private organization supporting the South African Government.

Tests Indicate No Hazard From Decorated Glasses

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (UPI)—Scientists from three Federal agencies have concluded that drinking glasses coated with decorative decals made of lead or cadmium pose no health hazard.

However, a spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency said today that they would hold a public hearing March 7 to assess the test results and hear industry and consumer viewpoints.

Health officials in Massachusetts published a warning last year about decorated drinking glasses that were being given away by the McDonald's hamburger chain.

The Government spokesman said today that the agencies' tests "indicate no hazard to consumers under normal conditions of use."

Low levels of metal can be released from the decals if they are painted on the inside of the glasses, he said, but no problem appears to exist if the decals are on the outside. A potential problem, however, could come from children's gnawing on the outside of the glasses.

F.D.A. spokesman said.