

Grant praises maritime union restraint

PARK RIDGE, Ill. - A federal order restraining maritime unions from interfering with the free flow of foreign trade was praised here this week by Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, as "reassuring evidence that ours is still a government of laws."

Grant cited an order from the National Labor Relations Board directing the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) to cease and desist from impeding the loading of grain

destined for delivery to the Soviet Union. The NLRB order came some five weeks after the unions agreed to a settlement stipulation that they would discontinue the practice.

Grant said the NLRB order ending union interference in Soviet grain dealings does not repair the damage of the 1975 union boycott, but agriculture is hopeful that it will stand as a landmark precedent to head off any future violations of free trade by intervening special interests.

The NLRB order marks the completion of action started August 25, 1975, by the AFBF, Texas and Kansas Farm Bureaus when they filed a complaint in the Houston regional office of the NLRB charging the International Longshoremen's Association with engaging in unfair labor practices.

The Farm Bureaus based their complaint on the fact that the ILA in August, 1975, engaged in and encouraged a work stoppage of ships being

loaded for the Soviet Union at the Houston and Beaumont, Texas ports.

On September 19, 1975, the acting general counsel of the NLR board authorized the issuance of a formal complaint, after investigating the charges filed by the Farm Bureaus that the ILA and two local ILA unions had conducted an illegal secondary boycott in refusing to load the ship Bosanka with Soviet-purchased grain. The NLRB found that the ILA violated provisions of the National Labor Relations Act prohibiting secondary boycotts.

On April 24, 1976, the NLRB submitted a cease and desist order agreement to the ILA and the Farm Bureaus which was signed by all parties. Approval of the agreement by the NLR board came June 22, 1976.

Grant said that the refusal in August, 1975, of the ILA to load Soviet-bound grain ships, "was a patent deception by the union to pressure the Administration to order a substantial portion of the grain to be shipped in American vessels." He added, "Union wage scales on the American ships raised maritime costs well above the world rates and are paid in great part by American taxpayers under the terms of a general maritime subsidy. Government estimates are that American grain going to the Soviet Union this year will cost U.S. taxpayers about \$80 million in subsidies for ship operators and workers."

Grant recalled that the

Ford Administration capitulated to the union demands by halting sales of U.S. grains to the Soviet Union from August 11, 1975, until late October, 1975, when the United States signed a five-year grain sales agreement with the Soviet Union. A companion agreement provided a \$16.00 a ton minimum rate for shipping grain to Russia,

with one-third of the shipments to be made in American vessels.

"The government action in negotiating sales and shipping agreements with the Soviet Union that set price terms and locked in a maritime subsidy on behalf of organized labor only compounded the damage done to U.S. export markets," Grant said.

Berks and Chester Counties

4-H poster winners named

Berks County had two 4-H Club members named in the honorable mention group of 4-H poster art at the state level conducted by officials of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service. Chester County had two.

This top group of 18 artistic 4-H youths were named out of 109 total contestants.

Winners from Berks Co. were Denise Beamesderfer, 102 Community Dr., Shillington, and Lisa Spatz - R1, Hamburg.

Those winning from Chester Co. were Rachel Holloway, 12 of West Chester and Janet Latshaw, 16 of Spring City.

This is the fourth year of 4-H poster art competition and three top exhibits from the state will be hung in Chicago during the National 4-H Club Congress in November. Following the Chicago event, the collection from all states will be scheduled for display at events across the nation throughout the year.

Pennsylvania will be represented in Chicago by posters created by Sue Schreider, 15, of York County; Carol Carville, 13, of Allegheny County; and Ruth Guzel, 18, of Washington County.

Three selected topics for the 1976 posters were "4-H Freedom to Be," "4-H Brings Out the Best," and "4-H is Action."

Charles E. Suloff, Berks associate county agent states that each January the acceptable 4-H poster art topics will be announced for the coming year.

Judge for this year's contest were Harry A. Carey, Extension exhibits specialist at the Pennsylvania State University; Dr. David B. Van Dommelen, Penn State associate professor of art education; and Mrs. Louise Mook, art teacher in the State College Area School System.

Rabies detected

HARRISBURG - Seventeen rabies cases were reported in Pennsylvania during the fiscal year of July 1, 1975 through June 30, 1976, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry.

This compares to 20 cases in the 1974-75 fiscal year.

Of the 17 reported cases, fifteen were bats. One rabid skunk and a rabid raccoon were also reported.

Bucks County had the

highest incidence of rabies with three cases being reported, all of which were bats.

No rabies cases were detected in the first three months of 1976. In April of this year one rabid bat was reported from York County. Three rabid bats, one from Northumberland County and two from Allegheny County were detected in May. One bat from Bucks County was diagnosed rabies positive in June.



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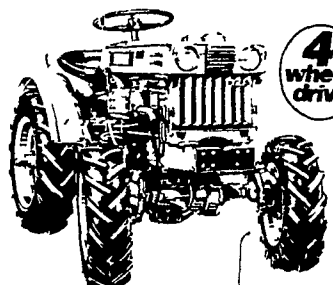


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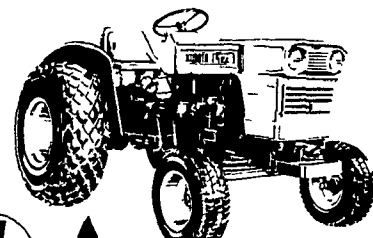
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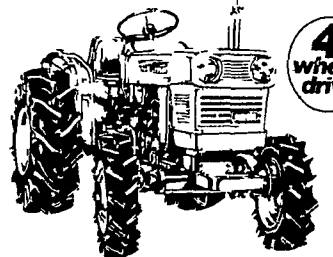
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