

Judge is for language

HOUSTON — A federal judge hearing a school case Tuesday said he believed American education should include more language training in Spanish and English, starting in the first grade.

"It's just appalling to me as a judge that this country has so neglected its

neighbors to the south," U.S. District Judge John V. Singleton Jr. said.

Singleton said, "It's embarrassing to me at my age, it's such a defect" to speak only one language. He said it is a tragedy that school children are not required to learn both Spanish and English.

Refugees find homes

(continued from page 1)

plight of the other Indochinese refugees.

Cheng, his wife, and six children left Cambodia for a short stay in France before they were given refugee status and a sponsor in the United States. They were resettled in Milwaukee in 1975, then came to Houston in 1978 to work with the YMCA program.

Although he was a wealthy farmer and businessman in Cambodia, Cheng lost everything when the government collapsed. He came to America knowing no English, and initially worked on a construction job to support himself.

The YMCA refugee service is one of many such charitable organizations across the United States. The YMCA places refugees in jobs, finds housing and transportation for them and gives them language and vocational training. UNICEF, the Red Cross, and the International Resettlement Commission also work to resettle refugees.

Organizations get a few govern-

ment grants that pay for office space and staff, but no money is given for refugee resettlement, said Flanagan. The YMCA acts as a sponsor for refugee families, but churches, civic groups or individuals must co-sponsor the families.

"The president has said that we can take 14,000 refugees a year," said Flanagan, "but we cannot take one person unless they have a sponsor. Sponsorship is not a legal obligation, but it is a moral obligation, to help people out until they can become self-sufficient."

A Gallup poll released in September said most Americans have mixed feelings about the refugees. Almost six out of 10 opposed any change in immigration policy that would permit entry of more refugees, yet a majority said the refugees should be welcome, and almost half said they would like some of the refugees to settle in their communities.

Although there have been few specific incidents of violence against them, a dispute over refugees' fishing rights in the Texas coastal town of Seadrift earlier this year resulted in one death. Flanagan said, though, that little of this resentment has been seen in Houston. "I'm not really aware of any animosity, though I'm sure there is some," said Flanagan. "For the most part, people have been very accepting. I think part of that is because the economy is so good."

Texas is second only to California in the number of resettled refugees. Texas has resettled more than 20,000 refugees since 1975. The weather, a warm, humid climate similar to that of Indochina, draws many refugees to the southern states.

Some would-be refugees are not fortunate enough to have the money to pay for transportation and bribes to public officials that would open the doors for them. The best estimate from a survey of officials working with refugees throughout Indochina is that governments pocket an average \$1,500 from each man, woman and child they allow to leave.

Such is the case for the family of Truong Thuy, an English specialist and teacher for the YMCA service. Truong, who holds an English degree from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, came to the United States on a student visa and scholarship in 1970.

"I wanted to go home to be a teacher," said Truong, but her plans were ruined by the communist takeover of Vietnam. Now Truong's family, five sisters and her mother, are in Vietnam without the money to leave. She has not heard from her family in over nine years. She is waiting for the day that she has enough money to sponsor her family's escape. "Everything I worked for I got," said Truong. "Right now my only dream is for my family to be here. I feel like I've lost them."

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what's up

Thursday

- "SILENT RUNNING": A science-fiction film set in the year 2017. What remains of Earth's plant life exists in a greenhouse aboard space ship, and it is in danger of being destroyed. Will be shown at 10 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Admission — \$1.25. (C)
- SOCIOLOGY CLUB: Will have a wine and cheese party at 7 p.m. in Dr. Copp's home (1101 Pershing). Bring wine and a cheese sandwich. Admission — \$1.25. (C)
- GROMETS-MSC RECREATION: Will have a meeting at 8 p.m. in Room 229, MSC. The progress of Warcon '80 will be discussed.
- CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The A&M Consolidated Middle School Choir will perform from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the University National Bank lobby.
- STUDENT "Y": A Christmas service will be held at 8 p.m. in the MSC Lounge. Rev. Dan Reihing will speak.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204, Harrington.

Friday

- CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The A&M Consolidated High School Honor Mixed Choir will perform from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the University National Bank lobby.
- STUDENT "Y": Will have an all-day Christmas party in Room 218A, MSC. All Y members welcome to come by between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- VENEZUELAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: La Asociacion de Estudiantes Venezolanos convoca a una asamblea general este viernes 14 de diciembre, con motivo a su reorganizacion. Dicha asamblea llevara a cabo en Room 251, Bizzell Hall a las 6 p.m. Venezolanos contamos con tu presencia.
- EUROPE CLUB: Will have the traditional Christmas and end-of-the-year party at 8 p.m. in the Tanglewood South party room. International students, friends and guests are invited.
- MATH HELP SESSION: The math club will be holding a help session to raise funds. Come to Room 223, Academic 7-10 p.m.
- REGISTRATION: Musicians can register for auditions to play with the Brazos Symphony Orchestra today at 2 p.m. in Rudder Theater. The auditions will be held Friday, Jan. 18.
- BASKETBALL: The men will compete today and Saturday in the Cougar Classic in Provo, Utah.
- BASKETBALL: The women will compete today and Saturday in the South Oak Cliff Classic in Dallas.

Saturday

- SYMPHONY CONCERT: The Brazos Symphony Orchestra will give its second public performance at 3:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Admission — \$2.50 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1.50 for children under 12.
- ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Will have a Christmas Bird Count and its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the Doran's house.

Union asks public to boycott lettuce

HOUSTON — Cesar Chavez and two dozen United Farmworkers Union members used signs, flags and chanting in an attempt to convince passersby to "help us out" and boycott a brand of non-union lettuce.

A few people stopped to chat, some motorists honked their horns and reporters hovered around Chavez for interviews downtown Tuesday, but most people watched for only a moment or scurried past.

"Help us out, brothers and sisters. I know you like nice fresh vegetables. We're the people who bring them to you. We're not asking for much. We're asking you not to buy this brand," Felix Sanchez of Monte Alto yelled.

He and others waved signs and the red flags of the UFW.

Chavez said the UFW wants to force Bruce Church Inc. of Salinas, Calif., which UFW has been striking

since February and boycotting lettuce for eight weeks, to "negotiate in good faith" for a labor contract.

"We're sure we won't be able to win the strike because they've been able to replace the workers with strikebreakers," Chavez said. "We don't need to have all the people boycotting. We estimate 3 to 5 percent would be very effective."

A spokesman said the UFW wants to increase wages to \$5.25 an hour minimum.

Sanchez said he makes \$2.95 an hour on which he supports his wife and six children.

"People in the cities don't know anything about farmworkers. People in the cities just have these things on the table regardless of what the people in the fields go through. We're all in the same country. All we need to do is communicate. That's why we come to the cities," Sanchez said.

Chavez, 52, in his 29th year of farmworker organizing, said Bruce Church is the nation's third largest grower and the largest of 13 that do not signed a labor contract. Twenty-one other companies have signed, he said.

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