

UN asked to find crew

United Press International
ALEXANDRIA, Mo. — The United Nations was asked Monday to seek the aid of Vietnam in learning the fate of a north-east Missouri man and 36 other Americans aboard a drilling ship that sank in the South China Sea.

The Glomar Java Sea sank last year during a typhoon. The ship, owned by a Houston company, was reported missing Oct. 25 during the storm and was

found sunken near its drilling site on Nov. 1. Among the crewmen listed as missing is James K. Gettings of Alexandria, a tiny Mississippi community on the Mississippi River near Keokuk, Iowa. Rep. Harold Volkmer, D-Mo., is co-sponsor of a resolution that asks President Reagan to work through the UN general secretary to seek Vietnamese help in determining the whereabouts of the missing

crew members. Volkmer's district includes Alexandria.

"Despite an intensive cooperative search and rescue effort by the U.S. and Chinese, no evidence was found of the crew, dead or alive, or of the ship's two lifeboats, which were believed to have been launched from the Java Sea," Volkmer said.

The congressman said Vietnam has refused to allow an independent search of its coastal waters into which the lifeboats or debris from the sunken vessel could have drifted.

Distress signals were received days after the ship was reported missing, Volkmer said.

"Efforts to ascertain the fate of the crew have been hampered by the fact that the U.S. does not maintain diplomatic relations with Vietnam," Volkmer said.

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Decision

Cities may use nativity scenes

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A closely divided Supreme Court ruled Monday that communities can display nativity scenes to celebrate Christmas, because creches are traditional and secular symbols of the holidays.

The Constitution does not require "complete separation of church and state," Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote for the majority in a 5-4 ruling on a controversial case from Pawtucket, R.I.

He said the Constitution instead calls for "accommodation, not merely tolerance, of all religions and forbids hostility toward any."

The justices reversed a lower court ruling that banned inclusion of a nativity scene in a city Christmas display in downtown Pawtucket. The display was challenged by a taxpayers' group and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Monday's decision that the creche did not unconstitutionally advance religion is the first time the nation's highest court has directly ruled on public displays of nativity scenes, although the question has cropped up nearly every yuletide in recent years.

Burt Neuborne, legal director for the ACLU, called the decision "part of an obvious movement by the court towards a more sympathetic view of government involvement in religion."

But, he said, it "is not an open invitation to government support of overtly religious events. This is not a green light for prayer in schools."

The ruling came on the same day the Senate began debate on a constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in schools, a prac-

tice the Supreme Court struck down in 1962.

And, in another religion case, the court agreed Monday to decide whether state laws protecting people from being forced to work on their Sabbath unconstitutionally

advanced religion. In the nativity case, federal government and tucket city fathers argued that Christmas is a "secular folk festival," and that creche was merely a holiday symbol.

Decision appalls O'Hair

United Press International

AUSTIN — Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair said Monday the Supreme Court ruling that communities can display nativity scenes to celebrate the Christmas holidays is an "extraordinary crushing of the wall of separation of church and state."

O'Hair, who won the 1963 Supreme Court decision barring prayers for public schools, also accused the high court of playing politics by is-

suating the order on the the Senate began debate President Reagan's plan to allow school prayer.

"Actually, what the decision means is we're being taken into a theocracy," she said. "This is an extraordinary crushing of the wall of separation of state and church, cause it does not say the menorah can be built, paid for and put up for Jewish people, or that something can be put up for the Buddhists or the agnostics."

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Police arresting for tardiness

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — Police armed with traffic warrants Monday fanned out across the city arresting tardy traffic offenders who ignored a grace period to pay their outstanding fines, authorities said.

Patrol Capt. Charles Fisk said nine, two-man teams armed with 20 warrants each began calling at the homes and businesses of people who failed to

pay up, despite a two-week grace period to clear their records without paying a standard \$6 warrant fee.

Those arrested were not taken to jail but to Municipal Court, which was jammed with other tardy offenders trying to avoid arrest. Fisk said one team spotted a man in court just hours after they tried to arrest him at home.

"We count that as successful,"

Fisk said. "There are long lines at Municipal Court and that's our preference anyway. Police don't savor the idea of arresting people. It appears to be a good response."

The roundup will continue for the next two weeks, as teams working both day and night shifts scour homes and businesses, Fisk said. The goal is to arrest about 400 offenders each day.

However, Fisk said teams were having better luck than others. In one case, officers did not make a single arrest until they tried to serve last warrant.

The warrants are being distributed to police by the Municipal Court in alphabetical order, so the heaviest offenders are not necessarily being arrested first.

Autry victim left 'baby-like' from wound

United Press International

AUSTIN — The brother of a brain-damaged Greek seaman who survived a shooting spree that landed James David Autry on Texas' death row says his 27-year-old brother was put into a permanent baby-like condition by an immoral "punk" who should be executed for his crimes.

"This Autry is punk. This Autry deserves to die," Jimmy Svarnas, older brother of shooting victim Tommy Svarnas, said.

"I don't think this Autry is crazy. I think he has no morals." Autry, 29, is scheduled to die by injection March 14. A last-second stay spared him from execution last October.

He was convicted of killing Shirley Drouet, a mother of five, during a robbery at a Port Arthur grocery store in April 1980. Joe Broussard, a priest who had driven Tommy Svarnas from a dock to the store, also was shot to death, and Tommy was left brain damaged by a gunshot wound in the face.

In an interview from his Brick, N.J. home, published Monday in the Austin Ameri-

can-Statesman, Jimmy said his brother "is like a baby" and has received no help with his medical bills from the states of Texas or New Jersey because he is not a legal resident of the United States.

"One day I hope everyone in this country will wake up and make a law to help the victim," said Jimmy, who emigrated from Greece in 1968 and now owns a small house-painting business.

"Me, my brother, we are victims all our lives. This Autry, he goes to jail. You take care of him, give him food, give him lawyers, give him everything."

"Who takes care of my brother? You give my brother nothing."

Tommy was in a coma for three months after the shoot-

ing. Although doctors gave little hope of ever walking again, his brother in a chair at his side in the hospital for two months encouraged Tommy to recover.

"Every day I pushed brother to walk," Jimmy said. "I hold him up from behind. 'Walk, walk, walk.' He'd fall down. I push again. He'd fall down. All the time I pushed him up. He'd fall down. Tommy was discharged months after the shooting. He spent two years with his brother in the small village of Liron, Greece, then returned to America a year ago to live with his brother."

His walking is staggard, his speech is slurred. He has poor hand control and his fingers are scarred from the of cigarettes he forgets smoking.

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