

SF Examiner MAY 11 1975

Congress questions refugee fund use

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The house is expected to approve up to \$405 million for 115,000 Indochina refugees this week, but the Senate may reduce that figure and pinpoint some of it for return tickets to Saigon.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Montana yesterday urged careful consideration of long-range funding for refugees. He said \$147 million earmarked earlier for military aid to South Vietnam should be spent on the refugees.

Mansfield said earlier he supports funding for resettlement, but he wants Senate legislation expanded to pay the way for South Vietnamese who ask to return home or settle in other countries.

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to send to the floor a bill cutting President Ford's request for \$507 million for the refugees to \$405 million over 14 months.

The cut was made because there are 115,000 refugees instead of the 150,000 Ford estimated.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is sched-

uled to begin hearings tomorrow on a bill by Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., authorizing \$127 million for the resettlement programs for 90 days. It would require Ford to return to Congress in 60 days and justify additional funds.

The house bill includes \$15 million for transporting up to 20,000 refugees to other countries, but not specifically to Saigon.

The new Communist government there has demanded the return of all, charging that many were removed against their will.

The House Black Caucus has strongly opposed any refugee aid, and opponents said restrictive amendments will be pushed in floor debate. Caucus member John Conyers, D-Mich., said he will fight the bill.

"I am sure they will assimilate well among the unemployed autoworkers in Detroit where unemployment has reached 24 per cent," he snapped when reminded that Vietnamese refugees settled comfortably in France in 1954. "Those people (autoworkers) simply are trying to get back jobs they had."