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*California Assails*

By Leroy Aarons

Washington Post Staff Writer

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—California officials, fearful of a massive influx of refugees from Vietnam, accused the federal government today of passing the buck on problems of receiving and resettling evacuees.

"We intend to protect California's economy and fiscal stability," said Robert Gnaizda, a deputy secretary

of the state Health and Welfare Agency who heads a hastily created commission dealing with the refugee problem.

"We have been told that as many as 100,000 refugees may be coming to California, and that most of them will settle here," added Gnaizda. "This is a national problem. You can't suddenly dump it into California's hands."

Gnaizda said state agen-

## *U.S. on Evacuees*

cies have been frustrated by a lack of information or response on the part of federal officials. State Health and Welfare director Mario Obledo sent a telegram two days ago requesting a meeting with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on the matter but no answer has been received, Gnaizda said.

He also had less than charitable words for former Ambassador to Jordan L. Dean Brown, designated by Kissinger as the federal government's coordinator on refugee dispersal.

"He has given us one estimate of numbers (10,000) and two different estimates to other people," said Gnaizda. "He seemed very uncertain. And what's most surprising is he said he is only in the job for two weeks and there's nobody who has been assigned to the problem for the long range."

Brown could not be reached in Washington for comment.

There have been various estimates of the total number of evacuees—some as high as 1 million. Current thinking in Washington is that about 50,000 will have been removed before Saigon falls.

In any case, despite federal announcements that the refugees will be spread

around the country, California officials are highly confused and reacting nervously. The state has about 1 million unemployed, and is concerned about absorbing tens of thousands of refugees.

"If we get a small number, we are going to take care of them in the best tradition of California—whose history of racial-ethnic mixing we are proud of," said Gnaizda. "But no American would welcome Vietnamese if in fact they are going to disrupt the economy and the housing market."

So far, no formal machinery has been established by which the state could resettle refugees with no relatives in this country.

The state has established task forces—one for short-range and one for long-range considerations. They consist of representatives from several state agencies concerned with emergency housing, health, welfare, education and other services.

These groups are collecting information to see what services could be available in the event of a major influx.

"We are trying to determine who would be the appropriate 'delivering' agency for services—federal, state, county or volunteer," said Robert Best, a state transportation official who is coordi-

nating the operation. "We're making all these contacts, but it is extremely frustrating with no reliable information coming from Washington. Even the national relief organizations are unable to find out what is going on."

Best estimated it would cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year per person to absorb refugees arriving with no ties or any place to go.

He added that by Monday the state would forward a proposal to Washington for federal funds based on varying numerical estimates. He said the proposal would include a provision that American veterans of the Vietnam war have priority on jobs growing out of the resettlement operation.

"Once we know who's coming, and how many, we will set up an agency to coordinate screening of refugees and identifying what services are needed. Then we'll use volunteer public agencies to find sponsors for them and relocate them in places they can be absorbed and be useful," said Best.

Gnaizda said the state was thinking of sending a representative to Guam—the processing point for evacuees—to get direct information. It also is considering legal action if necessary to try to halt a mass migration to California.