

State 'Cannot Afford Refugees' -- Brown

Los Angeles

California "cannot afford" the increase in unemployment that an influx of Vietnamese war refugees is likely to bring about, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. said here yesterday.

Brown's statement came as the Pentagon announced plans to house some 20,000 refugees at the huge Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base 50 miles south of here in San Diego county.

He acknowledged that the refugee problem was a serious one, but said the state's unemployment rate, now approaching ten per cent, was equally serious.

Brown said the Ford administration has not supplied him with up-to-date information on new arrivals of refugees. Asked when he expected further details from Washington, the Democratic governor dryly replied:

"Four years, possibly."

Meanwhile, officials at Travis Air Force Base in Solano county said they were unable to comply with state Health and Welfare Secretary Mario Obledo's demand that refugees not be allowed to land there until the government has adequate plans for them.

Base commander James T. Rock told Obledo in a telegram that he must bow "to higher authority" on the demand.

In the past week, more than 3000 refugees were processed through Travis en route to new lives in the United States.

At the same time, cargo jets leaving Travis are carrying 225 tons of food and supplies daily to Vietnamese refugees on Guam, an Air Force spokesman said.

Our Correspondent