A public outcry against refugees...

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Constituent mail and telephone calls to congressmen are running heavily against allowing South Vietnamese refugees to enter the United States, a spot survey showed yesterday.

Americans voicing their opinion are concerned about the impact of tens of thousands of refugees on an already critical domestic unemployment situation, a UPI check of more than 50 House and Senate offices indicated.

An aide to one senator said he detected racism in the opposition, but the single worry voiced most often was the impact on employment.

Coupled with concern over job competition were persistent questions such as: How many people are coming? How does the government plan to handle them?

"They want to know what the government's plan is and so do we," said Rep. Joe Waggonner, D-La.

A spokesman for Sen. John Tunney, D-Calif., said up to 2,000 letters had been received, "about 90 per cent a gainst bringing refugees into this country."

Other examples in the survey included:

Rep. George Brown, D-Calif. — Some 50 letters, described as "heavy" for his district, all opposing admission. A few had "undertones of racism," said an aide.

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif. — About 200 letters and phone calls, nearly all negative, with writers "citing the lack of jobs and the cost of helping the refugees."

Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., R-Calif. — In more than 300 phone calls to the California office, all but 10 opposed. The 70-odd letters were divided about 50-50.