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**PRESIDENT ASKING
FOR \$507-MILLION
TO HELP REFUGEES**

**Wants Congress to Act for
Resettling of 150,000 in
the Next 28 Months**

FUNDS RUNNING SHORT

**Some in House Doubt the
Propriety of Asylum for
South Vietnam Officials**

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WASHINGTON, May 5 — President Ford asked Congress today for \$507-million to pay for the resettlement of 150,000 refugees from Vietnam over the next 28 months.

The Administration has already committed \$98-million, taken from other programs, for air and sea evacuation of refugees who fled the Communist take-over in South Vietnam.

In testimony today before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, L. Dean Brown, who heads the interagency panel on refugees, said that the Administration expected to run out of funds for his operations at the end of this week.

President Ford's request was submitted in the form of a draft for a Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975. It was introduced in the House at noon by Representative William S. Broomfield of Michigan, the ranking Republican on the International Relations Committee.

Some Members Critical

The bill was immediately referred to the Judiciary Committee.

In the preliminary subcommittee hearing on the issue, Mr. Brown encountered a number of critical comments from members of Congress who questioned the legality and propriety of giving asylum to South Vietnamese officials who they said had misappropriated United States funds or participated in "torture and assassination."

Last Thursday, the House crushed a similar refugee aid authorization for \$327-million by a vote of 246 to 162 after it had been approved by a House-Senate conference and given final adoption by the Senate. The chief objection to that bill was that it included authority for the use of troops to get the refugees out of Saigon, a provision that was no longer needed after the American evacuation effort ended Tuesday.

The \$507-million request is less than the amount sought by President Ford last month, when he asked Congress to provide \$722-million in military aid for the Saigon Government and \$250-million in humanitarian assistance.

That request was made well before the Saigon Government collapsed, and the evacuation operation began. The \$327-million approved by a House-Senate conference committee and rejected by the House was in response to the first Presidential request.

In a move paralleled to that of Representative Broomfield's, Senators Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, and Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode

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Island, said that they would introduce in the Senate tomorrow a bill authorizing an unspecified amount for aid to Vietnam refugees.

A staff aide said that the mood in the Senate was such that the legislation could reach the floor for a vote by the end of the week. President Ford had called for urgent action.

But in the House, where mail from constituents is running heavily against refugee assistance and many members have opposed it, the going promises to be much rougher.

The Administration's request in the House is for an unspecified amount of money.

However, in his testimony Mr. Brown gave the following breakdown of fixed and expected costs through September, 1977:

¶\$30-million for evacuation by sea.

¶\$132-million for evacuation by air and transport to staging areas in the western Pacific and the United States.

¶\$35-million for building facilities to handle refugees at Pacific and United States sites.

¶One hundred and eighty-five million dollars for maintenance and processing at a rate of \$15 per refugee per day for 90 days.

¶Seventy-eight million dollars for resettlement costs of volunteer agencies at a rate of \$600 per refugee.

¶One hundred and twenty-five million dollars for subsequent welfare and medical costs and language and vocational training.

¶Twenty million dollars for 20,000 Vietnamese who are expected to travel onward to settle in other countries.

Mr. Brown said that of this estimate of a total of \$605-million, \$98-million had already been obligated—leaving the preliminary aid request at \$507-million.

The estimated 150,000 Vietnamese refugees listed in the President's fund request is an over-all figure as foreseen by the Administration for the whole operation.

Today, Mr. Brown disclosed revised estimates on the number of evacuees moving here as counted at 5 A.M. Eastern daylight time:

¶52,375 under way by United States and South Vietnamese vessels.

49,043 at western Pacific restaging areas.

11,843 at United States restaging areas.

11,138 already processed and sent out for resettlement.

From the total of 124,399 must be subtracted 7,176 Americans, Mr. Brown said, leaving 117,223. In addition, he said, there are probably 10,000 more Vietnamese seeking asylum here who escaped by ship or other means to Thailand, Hong Kong or Singapore.

Total Put at 140,000

Additionally, the State Department estimates that 13,000 students, businessmen, tourists and other Vietnamese who were in the United States before the South Vietnamese collapse will want to stay here. Thus, the total, as now estimated, is around 140,000.

Mr. Brown said that the Administration was now counting on about 130,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees remaining in the United States. As for attempts by the Administration to gain cooperation from United Nations agencies for refugee resettlement, he said:

"I am sorry to report that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has not moved as rapidly as we would have wished."

Questioned about the impact of 130,000 refugees on the United States economy, Mr. Brown testified that computer projections performed by the International Business Machines Corporation at Guam indicated that there were probably only 30,000 heads of households among the 150,000 refugees.

About 70 per cent of those processed on Guam speak English, he said, adding that there were large numbers of professional people.

"The great majority will be productive citizens in a year or so, taxpayers," he said.

But he met great skepticism from Representative Elizabeth Holtzman of Brooklyn, Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut and Martin A. Russo of Illinois, all Democrats.

Representative Holtzman insisted on hearing whether the Administration intended to pay the costs for "people with great personal wealth" from Vietnam.

Mr. Brown said that about half of the refugees would probably need public assistance.

He also testified that refugees on Guam had already \$2-million in gold that they had brought with them—"their life savings," he said.

Miss Holtzman also asked about "screening for persons who may have engaged in misappropriating United States funds, run tiger cages [small cubicles in which some prisoners were held] or carried out the torture of political prisoners."

Leonard Chapman, director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said that his subordinates would be running security checks on all incoming refugees on the basis of information gathered by the State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies.