

# Agencies Run Into Snags In Resettling of Refugees

## Sponsors Hard to Find

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Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7—

The effort to resettle rapidly the thousands of South Vietnamese refugees arriving in this country has been fraught with difficulties so far, according to many of those involved in the relief project.

Officials of public and private agencies assisting in the resettlement generally agreed today that the most difficult problems had arisen from the following:

¶ A shortage of sponsors who would guarantee jobs and housing for refugees who do not have family or business ties in the United States.

¶ An inability to check quickly those sponsors who have stepped forward to determine if they have the means to provide for the immigrants.

¶ A hostile public attitude, apparently stemming largely from the fear that refugees would take jobs from Americans in this recession-racked

Continued on Page 22, Column 1

## Fund Bill Gains in House

By DAVID BINDER  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 7—The

House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration voted unanimous approval tonight of a bill authorizing "such sums as may be necessary" to pay for the transport and resettlement of 130,000 Indochina refugees in this country.

The action came amid signs that the mood in Congress on the refugee aid issue was shifting rapidly away from antagonism or indifference toward a positive response to President Ford's appeal to "open the doors" of the nation to Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

The subcommittee's vote paves the way for action on Mr. Ford's request for \$507-million for refugee assistance by the House Judiciary Committee tomorrow night and a vote by Congress on Monday or Tuesday, said Joshua Eilberg, Democrat of Pennsyl-

Continued on Page 22, Column 6

country. This fear has been reflected in letters and telephone calls to Congress and the White House and in national opinion surveys.

Despite these obstacles, most of the same officials said that they were certain the problems would be solved and that the 150,000 refugees the Ford Administration has said might enter the country would be absorbed into United States society.

#### Encouraged by Ford

Several also took encouragement from President Ford's declaration at a news conference yesterday that he was "very upset" about the opposition to the immigrants and his strong appeal to the nation to "welcome these people."

"This is one of the things we needed, for the President to tell the nation it should respond to this," one grateful relief agency worker said.

As for the other problems, Leon O. Marion, executive director of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, the umbrella organization for the volunteer resettlement groups, said in a telephone interview from his New York office:

"It's still going slow. We're not getting that many calls offering homes or jobs, and that's what's really needed."

At Camp Pendleton, the Southern California Marine base that has received the majority of the refugees to date, Jack Svahn, a member of the Interagency Federal Task Force dealing with the resettlement, agreed—in part, at least.

#### 'It's Picking Up'

"It is not going as rapidly as we would like," said Mr. Svahn, deputy administrator of Social and Rehabilitation Services at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "but the signs are that it's picking up."

Mr. Svahn said that Federal officials had been receiving a rapidly increasing number of offers of sponsorship. And in Washington, a spokesman for the refugee task force headed by L. Dean Brown, director of the Interagency Task Force, said that in the last two days 2,600 calls came in on a toll-free number—(800) 368-1180—set up for the purpose of offering jobs, housing, money or other assistance to the refugees.

However, Mr. Svahn cautioned that "the danger is that some of the initial responses tend to be an emotional response." He cited as an example a woman who lived in a one-and-a-half bedroom apartment who volunteered to sponsor a family of eight.

He said he feared that the "weakest and most vulnerable point in the present system" would be the ability of the voluntary agencies to investigate the potential sponsors.

If sponsors renege, he noted, there is no legal way to enforce the contract.

In response, Sidney Talis-

man, national field director of the American Council for Nationalities Services, which is working with the International Rescue Committee, said in a Camp Pendleton interview that the voluntary agencies would send representatives to check out each unsolicited prospective sponsor before refugees were placed in his care.

Acknowledging that the voluntary agencies were really just getting organized at Camp Pendleton and at the other refugee receiving points, Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, Mr. Talisman contended

that the agencies had had sufficient experience with earlier groups such as Hungarians, Cubans and Soviet Jews to know how to conduct a thorough screening process.

"We feel the screening is sufficient to weed out people looking out for cheap labor or sex," he said. "We do get calls from people obviously looking for cheap household help or from elderly gentlemen looking for one girl, but they are turned down."

#### 'They Are With Us'

In New York, Mr. Marion, executive director of the coordinating council of the voluntary agencies, said, "I'm not exactly turned off by the negativism that has been expressed so far because I think that's just on the surface."

"I think that if the average American looks deep within himself he knows we have a responsibility to the Vietnamese. I don't think it's any longer a question of whether we help the refugees. They are with us."

Alan Kastner, deputy director of the International Rescue Committee in New York, said that the voluntary agencies were faced with problems that they had not encountered with earlier refugees.

"There's never been anything like this," he said. "The great numbers in such a short period of time. The Cuban thing was quite different, 675,000 came to the United States, but spaced out since 1959. The Hungarian refugee flow was between 35,000 and 40,000 people and they came spaced out over six months."

#### Comparison with Hungarians

"Although there was kind of a recession then, they came with a ground swell of support for the Hungarian freedom fighters. It's less favorable to the Vietnamese, but we hope it's changing."

There was general agreement among those dealing with the problem that the thousands of refugees who fled South Vietnam by boat would likely be more difficult to place in jobs than the usually well-educated or well-trained middle-class people who were flown out of the country.

"I think we are going to see a different kind of person," Mr. Marion said, "and it may be a little harder. I think we're going to find a nonprofessional person who may require an interpreter. But it may be easier to find employment for this kind of person. Everyone seems to want a maid or a cook."

vania, who heads the subcommittee.

The Senate is expected to act on similar legislation next week, according to Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, who introduced a refugee aid bill yesterday.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi obtained today approval of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to waive immigration restrictions for 66,000 Vietnamese who escaped from South Vietnam, mainly by sea.

Last month, the Attorney General issued parole authority allowing more than 80,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians to come into the United States as refugees.

Not all the refugees will automatically benefit from the parole authority, said James F. Greene, Deputy Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In testimony before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, he said that convicted criminals might be granted asylum in the United States, but that in some cases, "we'd even consider the ultimate of locking a person up."

Mr. Greene said that among the 675,000 Cubans admitted to this country as refugees after 1961, "six or eight" had to be detained in jail because of their criminal records.

The screening of Vietnamese refugees for potential criminals, including "assassins and torturers," was demanded by Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat of Brooklyn.

Her demands for clarification on this point and on the question of whether wealthy Vietnamese would be billed for

evacuation costs delayed action by the subcommittee.

Mr. Ellberg urged the committee to move swiftly on drafting the bill, because he said, the situation of the Indochina refugees "is a national emergency."

He cited testimony by James M. Wilson, Deputy Director of the Interagency Task Force on Refugees, that relocation centers in Quam, Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base in Florida were expected to run out of food and funds in "six, nine or eleven days."

But Representative Holtzman insisted that she needed time to draft an amendment.

The question of how much money is to be authorized for the Administration's refugee program was not determined by the Immigration Subcommittee. Earlier, objections to the \$507-million request were made by Representatives Holtzman, Martin A. Russo of Illinois and Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, all Democrats.

Instead, the House Appropriations Committee will determine the final sum after hearing starting tomorrow. A State Department Congressional liaison

officers said that this was satisfactory to the Administration.

"We don't want a dollar figure from the subcommittee," he said, explaining that the Administration had estimated \$507-million as the total needed for the next 28 months "to make it simpler for the Congress."

The antirefugee sentiment in Congressional sessions and hearings last week and early this week appeared to have been superseded today by widespread expressions of need for humanitarian assistance for the Vietnamese.

Last night, President Ford called on the United States to "welcome these people."

Today in a refugee hearing of the full House Committee on International Relations, member after member said that they were "proud" of and "gratified by" the massive United States evacuation operation in Indochina over the last four weeks.

Representatives Edward I. Koch, Democrat of Manhattan, and Peter A. Peyser, Republican of Westchester, held a news conference to announce that they were circulating a "sense of Congress" resolution approving President Ford's appeal for aid.