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Arrest in Bilking of Refugees

(SEE NYT 10 MAY)

Los Angeles

Police said yesterday a man who allegedly bilked three Vietnamese refugees of their airline tickets and demanded \$1000 to return them was booked for investigation of kidnaping for ransom. He was identified as Arthur Lawson, 57, a former airport worker in Vietnam.

Police gave this account: Canh Thi Nguyen, 23, ob-

tained the tickets from U.S. government officials in Saigon for herself; her son, Huu Nhut Nguyen, 3, and her sister, Hue Thi Nguyen, 13. She was en route to meet her brother-in-law and sponsor, Charles Jones of Charlottesville, Va.

Jones arranged to fly them to Virginia after they reached Camp Pendleton.

Lawson had met Canh in

Vietnam and the four arrived together at the refugee camp at Camp Pendleton. Lawson got possession of the tickets, took the three Vietnamese to the home of relatives in Los Angeles where he demanded they call Jones to obtain \$1000 before returning the tickets.

Jones called police who traced the Vietnamese to the home.

Associated Press