

# Obledo Estimates Refugee Burden

## Sacramento

California may have to shoulder the financial burden of caring for as many as 100,000 Vietnamese refugees, Secretary of Health and Welfare Mario Obledo said here yesterday.

Obledo announced that his staff had recently interviewed 100 refugees at the tent camp at Camp Pendleton.

From that sampling he found that about two thirds of the refugees want to remain in the state.

Even if they are relocated, Obledo said, "there is nothing to keep them from coming back to California. That's why I predict that 100,000 will settle here."

Earlier yesterday morning, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Wilson

Riles, urged the state Board of Education to pass a resolution urging Congress to appropriate funds to educate the refugees.

He noted that 40 to 50 per cent of the refugees are of school age and said even the adults need a variety of educational services in order to adjust to American ways and find work.

"I don't think we can rea-

sonably expect the local property taxpayer here in California to pick up the tab for educating the thousands of people who suddenly arrived on our shores," he said.

Riles also announced that he had already formed a task force within his department to oversee efforts aimed at educating them.

*Our Correspondent*