

WXPost
**Money Lack
Slows Flow
Of Refugees**
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The flow of Vietnamese refugees from interim sites in the Western Pacific to the United States is being slowed because government funds for their transportation are almost depleted, a government spokesman said yesterday.

At the same time, one of three U.S. military camps receiving refugees was reported filled to capacity, another was nearing capacity, and the third could receive only about 2,000 more refugees.

A spokesman for the inter-agency task force established to coordinate programs for Vietnamese refugees acknowledged that a number of problems were simultaneously coming to a head yesterday, creating a number of bottlenecks in the government's program to bring more than 113,000 Vietnamese refugees to the United States for resettlement.

The bottlenecks stem from a lack of funds to speed the refugees' resettlement and from a commitment to Congress by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that it will not release refugees from the military camps here until security checks are completed—a process that takes "at least" four to seven days, ac-

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cording to the government spokesman.

In the Western Pacific yesterday, Guam had about 39,000 refugees in accommodations that can hold 49,000 persons. Wake Island, with a capacity for 8,000 persons, held 3,800.

An additional 9,000 refugees were being held at other sites in the Western Pacific, and 20,687 refugees were still aboard ships moving toward Guam.

The task force was using \$98 million in foreign aid money transferred from other accounts to pay for the evacuation, transportation and maintenance of the refugees. L. Dean Brown, head of the task force, estimated during the week that those funds would be spent by this weekend.

The administration has asked Congress for an additional \$507 million to pay for the refugees over the next 14 months. A House Appropriations subcommittee Thursday approved \$405 million for the program.

Despite the speed with which Congress is moving to appropriate the money, there seems little likelihood that it will be available until the end of next week at the earliest.

An attempt by the Senate to provide interim help by voting Thursday to allow the transfer of up to \$147 million in previously appropriated military aid was described by one task force member as a "nice gesture" but of little help, since it will take 30 to 60 days for the Pentagon to determine what funds are available.

Meanwhile, according to

government spokesman Eleanor Green, the bottleneck is getting worse. "Unfortunately, we were behind the curve from the beginning," she said.

Refugees who have neither family nor friends in the United States nor adequate resources of their own must rely on private voluntary agencies to help them find jobs and housing required before they can leave the military camps.

The voluntary agencies, however, cannot begin to resettle refugees in any large numbers until the government supplies them with funds for the job.

In addition, at the insistence of Congress, refugees are being held at the military bases until security checks—to determine if a refugee was a criminal, prostitute, Communist or otherwise "undesirable"—have been completed.

Camp Pendleton, Calif., with a capacity for 20,000 refugees, was reported full yesterday. Fort Chaffee, Ark., with a present capac-



L. DEAN BROWN
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ity for about 15,000 refugees, was to have about 11,000 by this morning. Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. with a capacity for 2,500 persons, had about 600 yesterday.

"We are rapidly strangling ourselves," one task force member said yesterday. "The outflow is so slow and the inflow is so great."