

# SENATE UNIT ASKS \$405-MILLION AID FOR THE REFUGEES

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## U.S. Official Testifies Camps Are Blocked by Screening and Lack of Finances

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WASHINGTON, May 12—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, moving with unusual speed, approved today legislation to aid Indochina refugees after limiting the program's cost to \$405-million.

The action came after L. Dean Brown, Director of the Inter-agency Task Force on Refugees, told the committee that the refugee camps on Guam and in the United States had become "blocked" because of time-consuming security checks of the incoming refugees and because voluntary agencies did not have the funds to resettle the refugees who had already been screened.

Meanwhile more than 16,000 South Vietnamese refugees streamed off four merchant vessels in Apra Harbor, Guam. [Page 21.]

### Fourth Camp Weighed

The \$405-million limit, which was the same figure approved last Thursday by a House appropriations subcommittee, was less than the \$507-million requested by President Ford, but Government officials administering the program for South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees have said that they could work with the reduced amount.

The Senate committee action, which came on a 13-to-0 vote after only one three-hour hearing this morning, indicated that both houses would approve similar refugee legislation, perhaps by the end of this week.

A spokesman for the Depart-

ment of Defense said the Pentagon was considered setting up a fourth refugee camp at another military installation in the United States because the three centers a Camp Pendleton, Calif., Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., were becoming overcrowded.

Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said his panel's measure would be ready for action by the full Senate tomorrow.

The House is planning to act Wednesday on two refugee bills—one authorizing the resettlement program but without limiting the cost that was adopted last Thursday by the House Judiciary Committee, and the second bill actually ap-

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propriating the \$405-million to fund the refugee program.

The Senate bill approved today also merely authorizes the program to airlift, maintain and resettle refugees.

But the Senate committee, unlike the House Judiciary Committee, decided to write in a cost limitation. The Senate will still have to approve a separate appropriations bill to provide the funds.

Administration officials are hoping that the final bills passed by the House will not have major differences, which

would require a time-consuming Senate-House conference.

One difference in the measures is that the Senate committee bill would authorize the refugee program through Sept. 30, 1977, while the pending House appropriations measure would provide funds for the next 14 months.

Another difference was a provision added by the Senate committee specifying that any unexpended funds previously appropriated for military aid to South Vietnam would be used for the refugee program, thus possibly reducing the amount of new money that would have to be provided to fulfill the \$405-million outlay.

Administration officials have said that it might be 30 to 60 days before they can give a final answer on how much unexpended funds might be available.

## THE NEW YORK TIMES

"That's a hell of a way to run a railroad," remarked the Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, who is also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The Administration has been operating the refugee program on \$98-million borrowed from other foreign aid programs. Mr. Brown warned the Senate committee today that the available money was "virtually exhausted."

### 115,000 'in the Pipeline'

He said about 115,000 refugees were now "in the pipeline" but added that he had heard this morning that the Government in Singapore had begun to "put out to sea" 7,000 more refugees who had been on a ship there.

Asked why other Asian nations had not offered to take in some of the refugees, Mr.

Brown said that North Vietnam had put "pressure" on them not to accept the refugees and to return any to Vietnam.

Appearing later this afternoon before a House Appropriations subcommittee, Mr. Brown said he hoped that 20,000 or so of the refugees would eventually be settled in third countries.

Mr. Brown said that 48 refugees on Guam had expressed a desire to return to Vietnam. He said most of these had been pushed on planes during the evacuation and that they had been turned over to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to be returned.

Leonard P. Chapman, a retired marine general who is Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, told the Senate committee that his service was complying