

Placer County Shuns Refugees

Auburn,
Placer county

Plans for 400 Vietnamese refugees, including former Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, to use an abandoned tuberculosis sanitarium for a temporary home were rejected yesterday by local officials.

"I'll have to go back to Camp Pendleton and explain to our people that this was their introduction to America," said Jack Ward, president of Food for the Hungry, Inc., sponsor of the plan.

"Somewhere there is a community that can divorce itself from the prejudice."

The Placer county Board of Supervisors killed on a 3-to-2 vote plans for Food for the Hungry to use the 450-acre Weimar Medical Center in the foothills near this Gold Rush community.

Supervisor Raymond S. Thompson said, "We can't even find enough homes in our own county. I find it very difficult to open my arms to children from 8000 miles away when we can't even take care of our own kids."

Ward said, "I think this (the vote) shows the whole frustration and prejudice against the war."

Food for the Hungry, which has sponsored more than 500 refugees now at Camp Pendleton, planned to use the Weimar facility for three months "for general

orientation to life in America," Ward said.

Ky is sponsored by retired Air Force Colonel Jack Bailey of Food for the Hungry and would have used the facility, Ward said.

Use of Weimar originally was approved by the center's board. That board, however, allowed the Placer supervisors to have the final word.

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