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Refugees

And Social

Security

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A ranking officer of the Social Security Administration said here yesterday that the thousands of Vietnamese pouring into this country must become the "primary responsibility" of Asian-Americans.

Tom Owan, of the administration's bureau of Field Operations, said before addressing a section meeting of the National Conference of Social Welfare at the Hilton Hotel, that the immediate problems facing the newcomers are "enormous."

Owan, who is of Oriental extraction, said that in the long run, the Vietnamese will be meshed into society, settling in all likelihood, in areas with large Asian populations.

Owan said the refugees crowding the camps in California, Arkansas and Florida are of "special concern" to the Social Security Administration.

"As they qualify as aliens," Owan said, "they are receiving Social Security cards and many, in the months to come, may qualify for aged, blind and disability programs."

Lieutenant Governor Mervyn M. Dymally addressed a general session of the conference on the subject of "Facing up to Hunger in the United States."

He said California is not so bad off as the rest of the country, but said there must be a halt to the gobbing up of fertile lands for industrial expansion.

He also was highly critical of the immense use of energy in modern farming; from fertilizer and pesticide uses, through the equipment, processing and distribution systems.

At another section of the conference William I. Gore, director of psychiatric social services at Milwaukee County Mental Health Center said that mental health programs for poor blacks,



TOM OWAN
Federal aide

poor whites, poor Latinos, poor native Americans and poor Asian Americans are again "under siege by champions of austerity."