

# Refugee Funds Bill Gains in House, but Encounters

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WASHINGTON, May 13—A \$405-million spending bill to finance the resettlement of refugees from Indochina quickly approved today by the House Appropriations Committee but encountered at least a week's delay in the Senate.

The appropriations measure, which is \$102-million less than President Ford requested, was approved by the House committee on a voice vote. A short time later, the bill, along with a companion measure authorizing the refugee program, was sent to the House floor by the Rules Committee for a vote, probably tomorrow.

But while the bills, which are actively sought by the Administration to facilitate the refugee program, appeared to be moving speedily through the House, the committee would take a longer and closer look at the funds needed to run the program.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii who is chairman of a Senate appropriations subcommittee that began hearings this afternoon on funds for the program, said his committee "will undertake no hasty or ill-considered action."

## Military Funds Sought

Mr. Inouye asked the Defense Department to report by next Tuesday evening on the amount of military aid to South Vietnam that might be retrieved to help finance the refugee program.

He also said he had requested the General Accounting Office, the auditing arm of Congress, to investigate the amount of military aid that might be available as well as to report on the operation of the three refugee centers at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Erich F. Vonmarbod, a Pentagon controller who was evacuated from Saigon, told Senator Inouye's subcommittee that "in the neighborhood of \$40-million" of the \$700-million in military aid already appropriat-

ed for South Vietnam might be recovered. But he said he would have a more precise estimate by next Tuesday.

The decision to seek more information on other funds that might be found to run the refugee program apparently reflected the views of the Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, who has expressed displeasure that the Pentagon has not been able to provide

more precise estimates on unexpended military funds that might be available.

Mr. Inouye told reporters that he hoped to secure Senate approval of the refugee funds by a large favorable vote next week but that this might not be possible if there were "certain unanswered questions."

It was not immediately clear what effect the delay in Senate action would have on the refugee program operation. L. Dean Brown, direct or of the Inter-agency Task Force on Refugees, told the subcommittee earlier today that new funds were needed "almost immediately."

Mr. Brown, who spent all day on Capitol Hill testifying at two Senate committee hearings, said his agency was trying to find unexpended funds from other programs that might be used to continue the program until Congress appropriated the new funds.

The program has been operating on \$98-million borrowed from other foreign aid funds, but Mr. Brown, in his frequent Congressional appearances yesterday and today, has stressed that the lack of new funds as well as the time consumed by security checks of the refugees had slowed the resettle-

ment of the refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Mr. Brown said that about 105,000 refugees were in camps on Guam and Wake Island and in the centers in the United States. Appearing this morning at a Senate judiciary subcommittee, Mr. Brown also said that 6,000 to 7,000 more refugees were "on boats circling or approaching Guam."

Only 136 refugees were moved out of the camps in the United States yesterday for resettlement, he said, although he hoped eventually to move out up to 3,000 a day.

He said that one factor slowing the process was the time

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## Delay in Senate

consumed by security checks by Federal agencies to screen criminals or other undesirables. In some cases, he said, officials doing the screening have to shuffle thorough file drawers of three-by-five cards to match up names and records.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who conducted the judiciary subcommittee hearings said that two committee staff members who recently returned from several refugee camp sites reported that many refugees might wish to seek repatriation to South Vietnam.