

HOUSE APPROVES AID TO REFUGEES

MAY 15 1975

Stays in Session to Vote on
Companion Measure—
Senate Changes Plans
NYTimes

By RICHARD MADDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 14 —

The House of Representatives approved tonight legislation to aid South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees by authorizing their transportation, temporary maintenance and resettlement.

The vote was 381 to 31.

The House continued working into the night on a companion bill appropriating \$405-million — \$102-million less than the amount sought by President Ford — to provide money for the refugee relief program.

The Senate, in a change of signals, is expected to take up both bills, probably tomorrow.

The refugee authorization bill won quick approval by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee two days ago, but the chairman of a Senate appropriations subcommittee, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, proposed yesterday to delay approval of the spending bill until next week to obtain more information on the cost from the Ford Administration.

Expedited Action

Key Democrats, apparently not wanting to open the Senate to blame for delaying the refugee program, decided at a meeting of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee this morning, however, to order expedited action on both measures.

Bypassing Mr. Inouye's subcommittee, the full Senate Appropriations Committee met for less than a half-hour this afternoon and approved a \$405-million spending bill that was similar to the House version.

The Administration has been pressing Congress for fast action on the bills on the ground that the lack of new funds has delayed the resettlement of an estimated 115,000 refugees who have clogged the refugee centers on Guam and at military installations in California, Arkansas and Florida.

Although the issue of admitting perhaps as many as 130,000 Indochinese refugees into the United States after the collapse of American-supported governments in Cambodia and South Vietnam has stirred a mixed public reaction, the long House debate today was relatively amicable.

Rodino's Remarks

It was apparent that the initial public reaction against the refugees had abated.

"We must pass this bill not only for the refugees, but for ourselves," the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee,

Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, told the House.

But Representative E. G. Shuster, Republican of Pennsylvania, told the House that he was anguishing over the refugee bills.

"How in God's name can I spend \$500-million in refugee aid, worthy as it is, when I believe the spending tack we're on will destroy America?" he asked. "We as a nation just can't do everthing."

A proposed amendment by Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of Manhattan, to extend similar refugee aid to Americans who fled the United States in opposition to the Vietnam war was ruled out of order as not germane to the refugee measure.

The House defeated, by a vote of 346 to 71, an amendment by Representative Donald W. Riggie Jr., Democrat of Michigan, that would have denied any funds to assist the refugees that was not available to aid United States citizens suffering similar economic hardship.

Opponents of the amendment argued that it would prevent the refugees from being moved out of the three camps in the United States because, as Representative Paul S. Sarbanes, Democrat of Maryland, remarked, "There isn't a program that entitles an American to go to Camp Pendleton and live in a tent."

Scott Is Criticized

In an unusually harsh personal criticism of a colleague on the Senate floor earlier today, Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, denounced Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Senate minority leader, for suggesting that Mr. McGovern had proposed sending the refugees back to South Vietnam.

Senator McGovern said that, on May 5, he had emphasized that he was not suggesting that any Vietnamese be sent home "unless they so requested."

He quoted Mr. Scott as saying: "Any Government attempt to send them back would be a people-killing measure."

Mr. McGovern described Mr. Scott, who was not on the Senate floor, as "one of the Nixon hatchet men who at crucial periods of the 1972 Presidential campaign flagrantly distorted and twisted my positions on sensitive public issues."