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Senate Votes
\$405 Million
Refugee Aid

By Spencer Rich

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate sent to the White House on a 79-to-2 vote yesterday a bill appropriating \$405 million to aid refugees who fled Cambodia and Vietnam after Communist takeovers.

Final action came 10 days after the President sent his request for funds to pay for transportation of the refugees to staging camps in the Pacific and for their relocation and resettlement in the United States.

The President, estimating that 150,000 refugees would be relocated to the United States, asked for \$507 million.

The House and the Senate Appropriations committees, acting earlier this week, declared that \$405 million would be enough for now because about 115,000 refugees were at the processing and staging centers. A State Department spokesman said after the vote that the number of refugees may have risen to 125,000 by yesterday, although no one had a precise number.

The \$405 million is designed to cover daily maintenance and living costs for refugees at staging and resettlement centers; airlift and transportation costs; payments to private nonprofit agencies helping to resettle individuals, welfare, health and language training costs and living expenses until the refugees are integrated into American society.

Part of the funds will be
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used to help transport refugees to other countries wishing to receive them.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), floor manager of the money bill, secured passage without amendments, clearing the bill for the President's signature instead of sending it to conference with the House. Inouye received a promise from the Defense Department that only extra moving costs would be charged to the refugee fund.

Much of the transportation of the refugees out of Indochina and across the Pacific has been handled by the armed forces, and Inouye wanted a pledge that the Defense Department would seek reimbursements only for costs in excess of those for daily operation of the ships and planes involved.

A letter from Secretary James R. Schlesinger stated that the Defense Department wouldn't try to get reimbursement for such items as regular pay and allowances for armed forces personnel used in the operations or for regular "steaming time" of Navy ships, but only for the cost of "operations over and above the normal tempo."

Before clearing the \$405 million bill, the Senate approved, 77 to 2, authorization bill establishing guidelines for the relief program.

The Senate authorization bill differs from the House authorization bill, so the Senate measure must go to the House next week for clearance or a conference. The House wasn't in session yesterday.

Completion of all congressional action on the appropriation before the authorization has been approved is unusual. Normally, Congress passes an authorization, which sets a ceiling on the funds that may be appropriated and lays out the activities involved. Then funds up to the authorized ceiling are voted in an appro-

priations bill.

In yesterday's situation, however, congressional leaders were so sure the authorization will be cleared Monday or Tuesday that they pushed the appropriation through.

"It doesn't really make any difference—the intent of Congress (to provide \$405 million) is clear," said Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.).

Before the authorizing measure was passed, the Senate approved by voice vote an amendment by George McGovern (D-S.C.) providing assistance for any refugee who chooses to return to Vietnam instead of staying here.

Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), brandishing a \$1,000 personal check, said that instead of "massive programs financed by the taxpayers," resettlement should be financed by voluntary, private contributions, starting with \$1,000 each from members of Congress. His amendment to that effect was crushed, 75 to 5, with Helms, Carl T. Curtis (R-Neb.), Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.), James A. McClure (R-Idaho) and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) voting for it.

An amendment by Bob Dole (R-Kan.) on behalf of himself and John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) that would have provided \$100 million in job and training funds for U.S. Vietnam-era veterans was withdrawn after leaders of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee agreed to consider it separately.