

NYTimes Senate, 79-2, Votes Refugee Aid; Ford Expected to Sign Promptly

MAY 17 1975

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 16—The Senate gave final Congressional approval today to a \$405-million spending bill that is expected to accelerate the resettlement of Indochina refugees.

The bill, which was passed by a 79-2 vote, goes to President Ford, who is expected to sign it promptly even though it provides \$102-million less than he originally sought.

Once Mr. Ford signs the bill, according to Senate aides, the money will be available to operate the refugee relief program even though a separate bill authorizing the program and setting its guidelines will probably not receive final Congressional approval until next week.

It was a rare departure from

the usual Congressional practice of first enacting a bill to authorize and define a Federal program and then passing at a later date a separate appropriations bill actually providing the funds to carry out the previously authorized program.

By passing without change and sending to the White House the \$405-million appropriations bill that had been approved Wednesday night by the House, the Senate appeared to be heeding appeals from the Administration that existing funds to transport, feed and house the South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees were running out.

The refugee program has

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been operating on \$98-million in borrowed money from other foreign aid programs. Administration officials have said that the infusion of new funds will enable the Government to contract with nine voluntary relief agencies to begin moving the refugees from crowded camps at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Englin Air Force Base, Fla., to new homes throughout the United States.

Earlier today the Senate passed, 77 to 2, its version of the refugee authorization measure. But since it differs slightly from the authorization bill also passed last Wednesday by the House. The House, which next meets on Monday, can accept the Senate bill or send it to a Senate-House conference to reconcile differences.

Two Dissenting Votes

The Senate bill would set a ceiling of \$405-million on the cost of the refugee program, while the House bill would impose a limit of \$507-million, the amount originally requested by Mr. Ford.

Also, the Senate version contained an amendment by Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, that would require a survey of refugees to determine if any wished to return to Indochina

and would permit the use of funds to return them.

Voting against both the authorization and the appropriations bills were Senators Jesse A. Helms of North Carolina and William L. Scott of Virginia, both conservative Republicans.

The Senate rejected, 75 to 5, a substitute measure proposed by Mr. Helms that would have funded the refugee programs with private voluntary contributions instead of Federal funds. Mr. Helms attached a check for \$1,000 to his amendment and proposed that each member of Congress also put up \$1,000.

"It is time we quit fooling ourselves about the meaning of generosity," he said. "Let us now provide real leadership, with personal responsibility, and reach into our own wallets instead of into the taxpayers' wallets."

Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told the Senate that passage of the refugee authorization bill "hopefully will mark the end of our involvement in Indochina" and would help the refugees "in the finest tradition of the United States."

The appropriations bill would provide \$305-million to transport the refugees to the camps and maintain them there and

for grants to voluntary relief organizations to resettle the refugees in the United States.

Another \$100-million would be provided for medical aid, welfare and social service benefits, and language and vocational training that may be needed for their resettlement. The funds would be available through June 30, 1976.

The Defense Department reported today that 126,989 refugees were in or had passed through the processing system. Of these, 44,635 were at the three refugee camps in the United States and another 16,801, mostly relatives of United States citizens had been processed through the centers. The Pentagon said that 60,473 others were at military sites in the Pacific, with another 5,080 on their way to the Pacific sites.