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Tunney Doubts Number Of Refugee Settlers

Sacramento

State Health and Welfare Secretary Mario Obledo's prediction that 80,000 Vietnamese refugees will settle in California is far off the mark, U.S. Senator John V. Tunney said yesterday.

The California Democrat said his information is that only 15,000 to 18,000 Vietnamese will settle in California.

"I do not think it is helpful to make these dire predictions as to the terrible impact of refugees on the citizens of California at a time when we have ten per cent unemployment and people have grave concerns about their own welfare," Tunney said.

"It tends to create animosity toward's refugees that is not helpful," he said.

Obledo based his prediction that 80,000 Vietnamese would settle in California on a survey of refugees at Camp Pendleton taken at his direction.

Tunney did not say where his information came from.

Associated Press