

**Official Speaks Here** AUG 16 1975

# State's Popularity With Viet Refugees

The head of the federal government's effort to resettle Vietnamese refugees conceded yesterday that California has got more than its fair share of the newcomers and said the state will get even more.

But Julia V. Taft, named by President Ford to head the Inter-Agency Task Force for Indochina Refugees, argued that the numbers of Vietnamese entering the state and national economy are so comparatively small that fears they will take jobs from Americans and drive up welfare costs are unrealistic.

Ms. Taft said that only about 45,000 of the 130,000 refugees can be expected to enter the job market. "This is certainly a small figure when we look at the nation's work force of 94,859,000," she said.

Ms. Taft was the keynote speaker yesterday at a day-long conference sponsored by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. One hundred fifty officials involved with refugee resettlement work in California,

Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii attended the conference.

Of the 58,046 persons processed out of the camps during the past three months, 14,517, or 25 per cent, have chosen to settle in California. Florida is the next most popular state, with 6.2 per cent of the refugees electing to move there.

Governor Edmund Brown's administration has complained bitterly that California is being forced to bear a disproportionate share of the costs of resettlement. Ms. Taft said she met Thursday night with state officials to discuss the problem.

"I understand a little better what their problems are and I hope they understand where we're coming from," she said. "I appreciate the concern of Californians who think that any refugees are too many."

She said that refugees have as much right to work as strikebreakers as any American. But Ms. Taft said she is aware of only two instances in which Vietnamese have been employed in that



**JULIA V. TAFT**  
She helps resettle refugees

capacity.

She said claims that a large number of prostitutes, drug dealers and shady war profiteers are among the refugees have been proved false. Of 70,000 refugees whose personal histories have been checked so far, only about 200 refugees turned out to have questionable backgrounds, Ms. Taft said.