

SEP 11 1975

NYTimes

\$15-Million Project Is Proposed to Help Refugee Children

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (AP)—The Ford Administration has announced a \$15-million aid program for the current school year to school districts enrolling Vietnamese or Cambodian refugee children.

Don Wortman, director of a refugee study group in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, announced the program yesterday at a hearing of the Senate Education Committee.

However, he said the Administration opposed a broader bill sponsored by Senators Alan Cranston and John V. Tunney, both California Democrats. Under their bill, Washington would pay the full cost of schooling for the refugee children in the current year and half in the next. This would cost an estimated \$125-million.

Senator Cranston, presiding at the hearing, said he welcomed the H.E.W. announcement but that the measures were inadequate. He said he would push for the full funding provided in his proposal.

Mr. Wortman said the Administration plan would provide \$300 for every refugee child for supplemental services such as English-language training.

In addition, he said it would pay \$600 for each child beyond 100 enrolled in a district or 1 per cent of the total student population, whichever was less.

Some money would also be provided to state educational agencies for training of personnel who would provide the supplemental services, he said.

The Cranston-Tunney bill would make available in the present year the full estimate per pupil cost of \$1,260 for the refugee children plus \$300 for special services for each one.

The total number of the refugee children between the ages of 5 and 17 is estimated at 45,000.

Mr. Wortman said grade and high school education was primarily a state and local responsibility and that, at a time of falling enrollments, most districts can easily absorb a few more children.