

# 'Damned Mad' And Rightly So

**PRESIDENT FORD** is quoted as being "damned mad" at the sporadic opposition, in Congress and out, to this nation's admission of some 120,000 Vietnamese refugees, and his anger is readily understood.

This country has in recent years admitted and assimilated some 75,000 Hungarian refugees and considerably more than half a million Cuban refugees — none of whom had the moral claim for admission that the fugitives from Indochina clearly possess.

In large part, the opposition is based on pessimistic predictions that the incoming refugees will absorb scarce jobs at a time of high unemployment and fix another heavy burden on the taxpayers for their upkeep.

**THE FACT IS THAT** more than 60 per cent of the refugees are children and no more than 35,000 employable heads of families. Though some labor leaders have been crying havoc the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO has called upon union members everywhere to "make these refugees from Communist aggression welcome."

Happily, several members of Congress who expressed knee-jerk dismay over the influx of refugees have now had second thoughts and agree that federal funds for their relief should be forthcoming.

On the other hand, California's Governor Brown, who early on sought to deny Travis Air Force Base as a reception center, who has persistently badgered the federal government for landing refugees in California apparently remains hostile.

**HIS ATTITUDE** has been denounced as "absurd" by Attorney General Younger, and Mayor Alioto, likewise, takes issue with the Governor's unsympathetic posture, saying that San Francisco can accept "several thousand" Vietnamese and suggesting that "we ought to stop acting like little people."

It would be small, indeed, to turn away from the people involved in this exodus from their overrun homeland, people who have lost homes, possessions, families and friends and are seeking shelter in the country for whose lost cause they fought and labored.

In this context we take pleasure in applauding Labor's George Meany for refusing to partake in what he calls "a meanness of spirit unworthy of the American people."