

The original documents are located in Box 120, folder “Refugees” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

January 20, 1976

SUBJECT:

REFUGEE EDUCATION BILL

Yesterday the House passed the Indochina Refugee Assistance Act, a bill to provide additional funds for educating Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee children. The bill had attached to it the Quie amendment, which would limit Federal expenditures to July 1, 1976, and would exempt the Federal government from certain expenditures such as construction, transportation costs, etc. (In other words, the funds could only be applied to education costs.)

Does the President support the newly-passed bill?

GUIDANCE: Under the refugee aid bill passed last spring, \$20 million was committed to refugee education alone. ~~We feel that was a substantial amount, but we have not yet reviewed the H.R. bill.~~

FYI: The maximum cost of the House-passed bill would be \$23 million. That assumes that every school district that currently has Vietnamese refugee children enrolled could prove they needed the assistance.
END FYI.

ME

REFUGEES IN WINTER

Q. Will Fort Chafee be the only camp open for refugees during the winter?

A. We checked with OMB, which, as you know, has been assigned the task of working with HEW and State on the refugee situation. They say the entire matter is still under study and no firm decisions have been made concerning which areas will be used by refugees during the winter.

(FYI ONLY: Chafee will be one that will be used. There is the possibility another -- possible Eglin -- will be used. Indiantown Gap has no winter quarters. Pendleton is the other center.)

June 18, 1975

SUBJECT:

REFUGEES

Do you have any response to the criticism on the poor handling on the refugee problem?

GUIDANCE: As a result of the legislation passed by Congress providing funds for the refugees, a status report on the refugees is required within 90 days after enactment of the law, and each 90 days thereafter until the problem is solved.

The first status report is now being prepared and we expect to transmit it to Congress and make it public on the 23rd of June. Therefore, I think it would be premature to comment on the various stories that have appeared surrounding the refugees.

What will the report contain?

GUIDANCE: I believe this first status report will provide some historical background indicating the steps that have been taken to date, the current number of refugees, their location, the numbers that have settled with sponsors, and those that remain to be settled. The report will also indicate forward plans for dealing with the rest of the resettlement.

JGC