

The original documents are located in Box C21, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 5/17/1975” of the Presidential Handwriting File 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. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

Central Filed

[Faint handwritten notes]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JACK MARSH

As you are aware, the problem has developed between the House and Senate on the differences on the two versions of the Refugee Assistance Act. Attached is a summary which points out the basic differences between the two bills.

We are endeavoring to resolve this and hope to have more complete information early Monday morning.

Differences Between The House and Senate Versions of the Refugee Authorization Bill

The bill passed by the Senate on Friday differs from the House bill in these respects:

1. The Senate bill has a ceiling of \$405 Million - the House bill has a ceiling of \$507 Million.
2. The Senate bill requires that the President make every effort to retrieve all amounts previously authorized and appropriated for assistance to South Vietnam and Cambodia and requires that the amounts retrieved be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. The House bill has no such provision. (The Senate, in what is believed to be a major concession to the House, retreated from its previous position of requiring the amounts retrieved to be deducted from the \$405 Million made available under the bill. It is a provision which DOD and AID objected to because of the difficulty and time that it would take to identify the assets of the pipeline and to retrieve them.)
3. The McGovern amendment in the Senate bill requires a survey among refugees to determine which ones would desire to return to South Vietnam and Cambodia, and makes available funds from this act to provide commercial or military transportation or through other means to their home land. That McGovern Amendment had been rejected in the House and would not be acceptable in the Senate passed bill. You will recall that on Friday, **Senator Case** mentioned to you that actually a substantial part of the requirement of the McGovern Amendment was already a part of the basic law, particularly as it relates to the survey of incoming immigrants.

4. The Huddleston Amendment in the Senate bill imposes a detailed reporting requirement upon the President to transmit a report to the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Judiciary and Appropriations, but in the House only to the Speaker, which is a major point of disagreement with the House which in its version required a much simpler reporting requirement to the House Committee on the Judiciary in addition to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. (The House Judiciary Committee which feels very strongly about its oversight role in refugee and migration assistance matters, will fight to keep its prerogatives in this regard. Also, the INS had indicated that this Huddleston reporting requirement would create an undue burden of paperwork and manpower to provide such detailed information which they feel would be unwarranted.)