FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20472

Date: ______

To: **Name** Kathi Way

Organization White House Domestic Policy

Voice Phone 456 7777

FAX Phone 456 7028

Confirmation Requested: **Yes**____ **No**____ **at (202) 646-4600**

From:

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DAILY CLIPS

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1994

distributed by
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Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C.

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Editor's Tip Sheet

FEMA Fax NewsExpress

FEMA

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs
Morrie Goodman, Director

(202) 646-4600

Editor: The following is a summary of significant news and feature ideas about FEMA. It's designed to help you develop stories which these items may suggest.

Week of April 25, 1994

Federal Insurance Administrator Sworn In ...

Elaine McReynolds officially took over this week as head of FEMA's Federal Insurance Administration (FIA). The 46-year-old former Tennessee State Insurance Commissioner was nominated to the position by President Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Picture and biography available. Interviews can be arranged.
(Contact: Dave Martin 202/646-3159)

* * *

Fire Administrator Nominee Testifies Before Senate Subcommittee ...

Carrye Burley Brown, President Clinton's nominee to head the U.S. Fire Administration, told a Senate committee this week that making Americans fire-safe is her number-one priority and helping FEMA Director James Lee Witt fulfill FEMA's mission as an organization of "people helping people" her number-one imperative. Brown testified at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce Subcommittee. The chairman, Sen. Richard Bryan (D-Nev.), noted that Brown's support covers the entire range of the Nation's fire service.
(Contact: Dave Martin 202/636-3159)

* * *

Three New FEMA Regional Directors Named ...

* **Shirley Mattingly**, City of Los Angeles emergency management director for the last 20 years, has been appointed Director of FEMA Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau), headquartered in San Francisco.

--more--

* **Kenneth D. Hutchison** of Naples, Fla., is the new Director of FEMA's Southeast Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee), based in Atlanta. A veteran of more than 75 Presidentially-declared disasters, he has been an emergency planning consultant to state and local governments.

* **Louis A. Elisa**, long-time New England government administrator, has been named Director of FEMA's Northeast Region I (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont), located in Boston. He has held a variety of key positions in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.
(Contact: Carl Suchocki 202/646-3988)

* * *

FEMA Outlines Fiscal '95 Budget Needs for Congress ...

Director James Lee Witt and other FEMA officials have outlined the Agency's Fiscal 1995 budget request for Sen. Barbara Mikulski's (D-Md.) Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. The Administration is asking for $704.3 million for FEMA, slightly lower than last year's appropriation. The Director's testimony and the budget-in-brief are available.
(Contact: Dave Martin 202/646-3159)

* * *

Status of Disaster Declarations ...

So far this month President Clinton has declared parts of four states disaster areas due to a variety of storm conditions. Latest were counties in **Oklahoma and Missouri**, both declared Thursday, April 21.

Earlier, parts of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia were declared major disaster sites all as a result of intense winter storms. Other declarations were issued in late March for Alabama and Georgia because of tornado and flood damage.
(Contact: Carl Suchocki 202/646-3966)

* * *

Upcoming Events ...

* Director Witt will be traveling in Florida this week.

* More actions can be anticipated in FEMA's mitigation efforts in the nine Midwestern states flooded last summer.
(Contact: Dave Martin 202/646-3159)

-30-

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

(202) 646-4600

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-40

Release Date:
April 25, 1994

FEDERAL AID APPROVED TO FIGHT ARIZONA DESERT FIRE

WASHINGTON -- Federal funds have been authorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help Arizona battle the uncontrolled Dolan fire that is threatening residents of Dolan Springs located 25 miles northwest of Kingman in Mohave County.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt said the fire suppression aid was approved Saturday afternoon, April 23, shortly after it was requested by the state. The fire, started April 22, had burned more than 1,500 acres of high desert grassland at the time of the request.

Under the authorization, the agency will pay 70 percent of state's eligible firefighting costs that are above $50,728. The figure, called a floor cost, is derived through a formula based on the state's five-year annual average cost for fighting fires.

Federal fire suppression aid is provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and made available by FEMA to assist in fighting fires when they threaten to cause a major disaster. The agency estimated that about $209,490 in federal supplemental funds currently will be needed to help control the Dolan fire.

-30-

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

(202) 646-4600

Media Contacts:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-39

Release Date:
April 25, 1994

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER BOARD TO RECEIVE $280,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS

WASHINGTON -- Programs for the care of the District of Columbia's homeless and needy will be supported by a special allocation of $280,000 in federal funds, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA Director James Lee Witt said the money was made available from returned and unused administrative funds originally appropriated last year under the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) National Board Program to help support social service agencies in cities and counties across the country.

In providing these funds, FEMA joins the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Interagency Council on the Homeless in implementing the District of Columbia Initiative project. The initiative is a concentrated Federal effort to reduce the number of homeless persons on the streets and improve access to programs in the Nation's Capital.

The District of Columbia Local EFS Board will allocate $185,000 to the Lutheran Social Services to administer an eviction prevention program; $80,000 to the Salvation Army to supplement a 24 hour drop-in center; $15,000 to the Community Family Life Services to operate an eviction prevention revolving loan fund; and $5,000 to the Friendship Place to outfit a medical unit.

EFS funds were first authorized by Congress in 1983 and are appropriated annually under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Act of 1987. Witt noted that more than $1.2 billion in federal aid has been disbursed to over 2,500 U.S. jurisdictions since the EFS program began.

Agencies belonging to the EFS National Board include the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; Council of Jewish Federations; National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; Salvation Army; and the United Way.

-30-

Oklahoma Office of Civil Emergency Management

Federal Emergency Management Agency

MEDIA ADVISORY

Disaster Field Office
116 1st Street SE
Miami, OK 74354

FEMA-1024-DR-OK, Release #2
Contact: Dean Cushman, FEMA PIO
(918) 542-1021
fax (918) 542-1167

Al Ashwood, State PIO
(918) 542-1021 Ext. 33

Please do not publish the FEMA Disaster Field Office phone number.

The phone number for persons wishing to apply for disaster assistance is 1-800-462-9029.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Oklahoma Office of Civil Emergency Management

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Office
116 1st Street SE
Miami, OK 74354
April 24, 1994

FEMA-1024-DR-OK, Release #2
Contact: Dean Cushman, FEMA PIO
(918) 542-1021
fax (918) 542-1167
Al Ashwood, State PIO
(918) 542-1021 Ext. 33

INSURANCE OR NOT, FLOOD VICTIMS SHOULD APPLY FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

"Flood victims may discover that their insurance policies don't cover all their needs," said Dell Greer, Coordinating Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A policy may not provide additional living expenses should an individual or family need to live in a motel or hotel room until repairs are completed to a damaged home. Or a policy may cover only structural damage and not contents.

"For that reason, we encourage any Ottawa County residents who had flood damage because of the storms that began on April 11 to apply for federal assistance even if they carried either homeowners or flood insurance," said Tom Feuerborn, Governor Walter's Authorized Representative.

Individuals may apply for disaster assistance at the Disaster Application Center located in the Presbyterian Church Annex at the corner of B and Central streets SW in Miami or call 1-800 462 9029.

Assistance may include temporary housing funds, grants to help homeowners and renters with serious needs not met by other programs; Small Business Administration loans to homeowners, renters and businesses; and other programs to help flood victims get their lives back to normal.

Applicants need to provide a social security number, current address, phone number, income, directions to the damaged property and information on insurance coverage.

###

Mike Espy
Secretary of Agriculture

Midwest Flood Recovery
Interagency Task Force

James L. Witt
Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Floodplain Management • Community Redevelopment • Environment • Health • Production Agriculture • Transportation • Education • Housing

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-17

Release Date:
April 25, 1994

LINCOLN COUNTY, MISSOURI TO RECEIVE
FEDERAL FUNDS FOR RELOCATION

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Missouri jointly announced today that $1,739,680 in federal funds have been allocated for Lincoln County, to help reduce future flood losses.

The funding, provided through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), will be used by the county to acquire approximately 243 flood damaged residential structures, according to John A. Miller, director of FEMA's regional office in Kansas City, Mo. The properties will be demolished and the land turned into an open space or recreational area for use by the community.

The HMGP project was announced at today's signing of the joint federal-state agreement involving the recent major disaster declared by President Clinton as a result of damage from floods earlier this month. This is the 20th Missouri community that has received federal approval for the buyout program as a direct result of last summer's floods.

"This program, which makes future generations of Missourians safer, is a splendid example of the federal-state partnership and FEMA's commitment of 'People Helping People'," Miller said. "We appreciate Governor Mel Carnahan's support of these mitigation measures."

The Lincoln County HMGP project is part of FEMA's ongoing effort to assist local governments in acquiring and relocating flood-prone properties. To date, similar projects have been approved in eight Midwest states involving more than 4,000 individual properties.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt said, "FEMA's goal is to reduce the potential for future flood damage and to help prevent the kind of suffering and human tragedy that we witnessed last summer."

-30-

Star Tribune

Date: APR 26 1994

Flood aid needed

The April 13 Star Tribune accurately reported the unfortunate fact that both Gov. Arne Carlson and the Senate have downsized the appropriations for disaster relief to Minnesota's hard-pressed family farmers. Regrettably, a DFL-dominated Senate reduced the governor's meager $12 million to a paltry $10.8 million in farm assistance.

Representatives of the governor have even justified the lower figure as adequate because of an alleged doubling of federal aid.

The nearly $460 million in crop-damage payments to Minnesota would have been approximately half that amount if it were not for the efforts of a handful of U.S. senators that included Paul Wellstone, alone among the Minnesota congressional delegation, in August when the final debate on the Agriculture Disaster Relief Act in the Senate took place. The emergency relief measure that passed in the U.S. House last year followed a pattern established during the Bush administration, which appropriated only half the traditionally established formula for agricultural disaster relief.

Unfortunately, even that additional $230 million to Minnesota agriculture leaves a huge, gaping hole in the rural economy, despite federal crop insurance, conservation and emergency-feed program payments. Counting all federal government sources, roughly $800 million was paid to rural Minnesota farmers. Yet total losses were $1.5 billion. The rural economy has lost approximately $700 million, and that excludes small business losses.

The state will be irresponsible for failing to act on grounds that the federal government did something.

Rep. Steve Wenzel, chairman, House Agriculture Committee, DFL-Little Falls, Minn.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH APR 26 1994

A-8

'We Will Survive' In Valley Park, Alderman Vows

Valley Park officials offered words of encouragement Monday night to victims of Meramec River flooding.

"The damage we received here in Valley Park was tremendous," Alderman Gary Adams said at a meeting at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Valley Park. "But we will survive. Won't we?"

Adams moderated a panel of federal, state and Valley Park officials who addressed questions from flood victims. Several hundred people attended the meeting.

Mayor Joseph W. Harrington assured residents that they would get pre-flood fair market value for their homes in a federal buyout if the structures are in the flood plain or in an area where a levee is scheduled to be built. The levee is scheduled for completion in 1996, he said.

A representative from Federal Emergency Management Agency explained that the buyout would be financed with a combination of insurance payments and FEMA money. He also said homeowners might get credit for money they already had spent rebuilding their homes.

HOPE HOUSE BEGINS OUTREACH TO 100,000 NEIGHBORS AFFECTED BY JAN. 17 EARTHQUAKE

LOS ANGELES, April 25 /PRNewswire/ -- Hope House, a local mental health organization offering comfort and refuge to clients for 25 years, has been contracted by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's Project REBOUND (a FEMA-funded program) to provide earthquake-related emotional support services to the community. A team of 70-plus professionals, under the leadership of Dr. Carole S. Noreen, director and founder of Hope House, has undertaken an ambitious outreach program to reach 100,000 neighbors and offer free, confidential emotional support services.

The Earthquake Assistance Outreach Program Kickoff was held on Saturday, April 23, at Hope House, 4819 Genesta Ave., Encino.

Noreen notes that, "We need to reach every business, institution and home. Many of our neighbors who need disaster services deny continuing fears and needs, are housebound, or are invisible to community agencies. Hope House will contact people in their homes, businesses, agencies, community, recreations, religious and senior centers, and in schools.

"As people face the ongoing challenges of this devastating event, things are geting harder, not easier. Many people feel the stress of the continuing disruption of their lives and the loss of economic stability," said Noreen.

Among the services available through Hope House (818-905-5225) are:

-- up to six individual counseling sessions for earthquake-related fears, anxieties and concerns
-- ongoing support groups
-- on-site educational support services.

CONTACT: Dr. Carole Noreen of Project REBOUND, L.A. County Department of Mental Health, 818-905-5226

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 26 1994

Lessons of Northridge Quake Noted

■ **Disaster relief:** Federal officials say they are generally pleased with the response of their agencies to the Jan. 17 temblor. But they cite areas that need improvement.

By ALAN C. MILLER B1
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Federal officials who gathered here Monday to discuss their effort to help Southern California recover from the Northridge earthquake praised themselves for responding rapidly and cohesively but stressed the need to improve on nearly every front.

Underlying their discussion was anxiety that the next challenge may be far tougher.

"This was a great experience," William E. Clark of the Department of Health and Human Services said of the relief program. "But the Big One scares the bejeezus out of us." He called the Jan. 17 temblor "not the Big One but the big warning."

For many of those who met for 3¼ hours in a hotel ballroom here, the devastating quake in a dense urban area represented high-pressure, on-the-job training less than a year after taking office. One participant called the effort "the civil equivalent of Operation Desert Storm"—without the benefit of six months of preparation.

Federal, state and local officials and private relief agencies received high marks overall from James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and from Housing Secretary Henry G. Cisneros, Transportation Secretary Federico F. Pena and other leaders of the federal response. "We established a new standard of performance," Pena said.

But others emphasized that the quake's toll would have been far more serious had it not occurred at pre-dawn on a Monday morning, and during a holiday at that. And several speakers noted that a much more severe quake—with projections of tens of

Please see LESSONS, B3

thousands injured and up to $80 billion in damages—could loom ahead.

"We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go to be ready," said Witt, who quarterbacked the federal relief effort and hosted Monday's symposium.

The participants said there is an urgent need for improved preparedness, training, coordination, communication, public education, and construction and safety measures to limit future injuries and damage. Some voiced concern that as soon as a crisis passes it becomes difficult to marshal the public and political will to take such necessary, sometimes costly, steps.

Among the missteps that federal officials vowed to avoid in future calamities:

• Disaster assistance centers—some of which opened only four days after the Northridge earthquake—were initially plagued by long lines, slow processing, lack of bilingual staff and confusion over emergency housing programs provided by various federal agencies.

An early rash of false and inflated claims stemmed from suspension of standard screening procedures in an emergency Food Stamp program that parceled out $68 million.

• Repair costs for freeways damaged by the Jan. 17 temblor were overestimated—by $500 million—by California Transportation officials.

Witt and Cisneros acknowledged there was confusion about eligibility requirements for FEMA's short-term housing grants and HUD's 18-month rental vouchers for low-income victims. Cisneros said he will make disaster housing assistance available again but with some modifications.

He also referred to speculation that the HUD program had prompted Congress to crack down on earthquake aid to illegal immigrants. But Cisneros insisted: "This issue would have come up no matter what because this is California; it's a hot issue there and it's a political time."

Oleta G. Fitzgerald, executive assistant to Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, said a recent workshop held to assess problems with the emergency Food Stamp program determined that advanced planning with states is necessary to prevent fraud and that information about eligibility criteria and penalties for fraud should be circulated through the news media.

Witt said he's seeking to develop three regional "situation assessment" teams of federal, state and local officials to make quick, reliable determinations of damages and costs.

Caltrans told federal officials that the cost of repairing major arteries would be $1.35 billion—which Congress appropriated. Earlier this month, Caltrans reduced the figure by $500 million because several damaged bridges and overpasses that were originally scheduled for demolition and replacement can be repaired. A spokeswoman emphasized that the estimate had been "super-preliminary."

Officials agreed that efforts should be intensified to construct and retrofit buildings and other structures to minimized damage in the future. They also called for establishment of a stable, long-term funding source to pay for disaster relief.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20472

Date: ______________________

To: **Name** Kathi Way

Organization White House Domestic Policy

Voice Phone 456 7777

FAX Phone 456 7028

Confirmation Requested: **Yes**____ **No**____ **at (202) 646-4600**

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Media Contacts:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-39

Release Date:
April 25, 1994

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER BOARD TO RECEIVE $280,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS

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In providing these funds, FEMA joins the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Interagency Council on the Homeless in implementing the District of Columbia Initiative project. The initiative is a concentrated Federal effort to reduce the number of homeless persons on the streets and improve access to programs in the Nation's Capital.

The District of Columbia Local EFS Board will allocate $185,000 to the Lutheran Social Services to administer an eviction prevention program; $80,000 to the Salvation Army to supplement a 24 hour drop-in center; $15,000 to the Community Family Life Services to operate an eviction prevention revolving loan fund; and $5,000 to the Friendship Place to outfit a medical unit.

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Agencies belonging to the EFS National Board include the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; Council of Jewish Federations; National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; Salvation Army; and the United Way.

-30-

Oklahoma Office of Civil Emergency Management

Federal Emergency Management Agency

MEDIA ADVISORY

Disaster Field Office
116 1st Street SE
Miami, OK 74354
April 23, 1994

DR-24, Media Advisory #1
Contact: Dean Cushman, FEMA-PIO
(918) 542-1021

FEDERAL-STATE MEETING FACT SHEET

WHAT: A meeting of all federal and state agencies who will be providing assistance to individuals who suffered loss or damage because of the floods of April 11 and thereafter.

WHERE: The Miami Civic Center

WHEN: April 25, 1994, at 1:00

WHO: The Federal Emergency Management Coordinating Officer, Dell Greer
Deputy Coordinating Officer Graham Nance
Oklahoma State Coordinating Officer, Albert Ashwood
Governor's Authorized Representative Tom Feuerborn

BACKGROUND: A meeting held at the beginning of the a disaster recovery phase to introduce the participating federal and state agencies and discuss the kind of assistance they will be giving.

A period after the meeting will be set aside for interviews with the various agency officers and representatives.

Oklahoma Office of Civil Emergency Management

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Office
116 1st Street SE
Miami, OK 74354
April 23, 1994

FEMA-1024-DR-OK, Release #1
Contact: Dean Cushman, FEMA PIO
(918) 542-1021

DISASTER APPLICATION CENTER TO OPEN

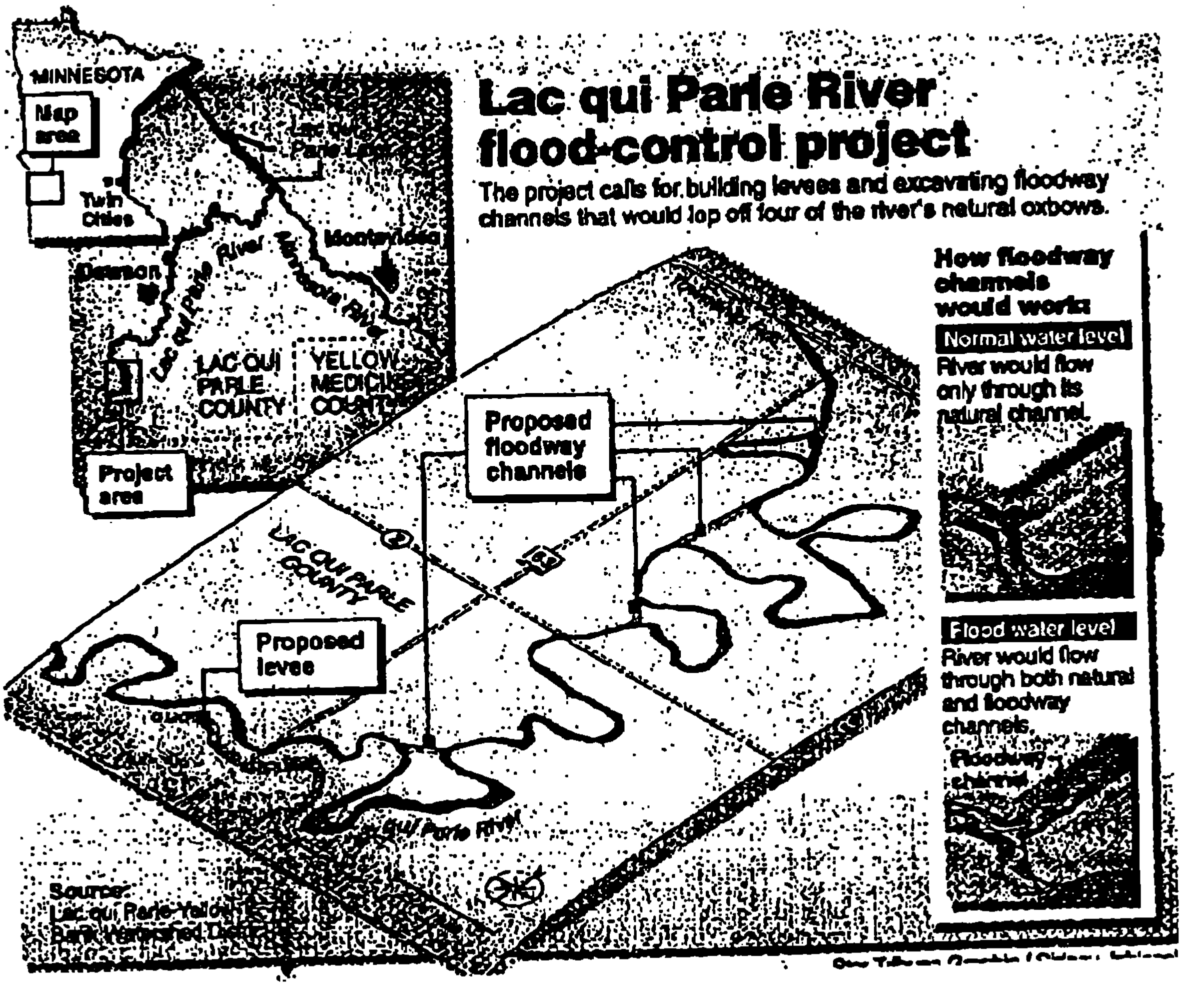
Help is on the way for individuals in Ottawa County who suffered loss or damage because of the flooding which occurred April 11 and thereafter. A Disaster Application Center will open at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, 1994 to take applications for federal and state assistance.

Assistance may include temporary housing funds, grants to help homeowners and renters with serious needs not met by other programs, Small Business Administration loans to homeowners, renters and businesses, employment assistance for individuals who lost work because of the flooding, and other programs to help mitigate damages cause by the disaster.

Applicants need to provide their social security number, current address and phone number, a description of damage, directions to the property and information on insurance coverage.

The Center will be located at the Presbyterian Church on the corner of B street and Central in Miami. The Center will be open from 9 to 6 daily beginning Monday April 25, 1994.

##



polluted and flood-prone major river. CURE and other critics had charged that the project would exacerbate such harm to the Minnesota.

Klein said, "The net effect of this project is loss of [flood water storage] and aggravation of downstream flooding." He also agreed with a critic who testified in hearings last year that "over time there have been countless small projects like this which have caused the problems that are present today."

MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE APR 23 1994

Judge opposes Lac qui Parle flood project

By Dean Rebuffoni
Staff Writer

1B

Permits that would allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a $400,000 flood-control project on the Lac qui Parle River should be denied by state officials, a state administrative law judge recommended Friday.

Judge Allan Klein concluded that the project would pollute the river in southwestern Minnesota and destroy natural resources, including significant fish habitats. He said there are environmentally sound alternatives to the project, including a state program that would pay farmers to retire flood-prone riverfront land.

Although the project would include the building of levees and the excavation of floodway channels, Klein said project backers did not seriously consider "nonstructural" alternatives.

He noted that the White House has directed the Corps of Engineers to examine such alternatives, which include the restoration of wetlands to ease flooding. Klein said the project also does not meet state environmental laws and rules, which favor nonstructural solutions to flooding

Flood control continued on page 5B

problems.

"There are such alternatives available in this case and they should be used in lieu of the project," he said.

It's now up to Rod Sando, commissioner of the state Department of Natural Resources, to decide whether to issue construction permits. DNR officials said Sando is reviewing Klein's report.

Klein's recommendation was hailed by environmentalists who said it "ushers in a new era of floodplain management." The project's chief sponsor, the board of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District, said it had no immediate comment. The board is responsible for water planning throughout the watershed drained by the river.

The project, call the Lac qui Parle River Floodways, is intended to reduce periodic flooding on up to 850 acres of riverside farmland near Dawson, Minn. The Corps of Engineers designed the project at the request of the watershed board. Federal funds would pay 75 percent of the project's total cost; the remainder would be covered by the state and the watershed board.

The project would cut off four of the river's natural meanders, or oxbows. New channels, or floodways, would be excavated. When flows are normal, water would flow through the natural channel. When flows are high, excess water — the flood water — would run through the floodways, although water would continue running through the channel.

Klein noted that while 15 farms would derive some flood-control benefits, not all of the affected landowners favor the project. He said that while the project would protect land from some floods, it would not protect against huge floods like that of 1993, nor lesser floods that occur about every 10 years.

Opposition to the project has come from some DNR officials, including fish and wildlife specialists, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which said that there are desirable and cheaper solutions to flooding along the river.

Other critics include Clean-Up Our River Environment (CURE), a 150-member environmental group based in Montevideo, Minn. A CURE board member, Del Wehrspann, said he hopes Klein's report will prompt the Corps of Engineers and local watershed districts to "focus their attention on floodplain management strategies that consider the big picture."

Wehrspann added, "We need to stop coming up with limited solutions that only cause more problems downstream."

The Lac qui Parle is a tributary of the Minnesota River, the state's most

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

MINNEAPOLIS STAR AND TRIBUNE APR 23 1994

Minnesota to get over $41 million in HUD funding

By Jean Hopfensperger

Staff Writer

Minnesota will receive nearly $12 million in federal funds to help victims of the 1993 flood and an additional $25 million to help support community development plans in small communities, a top official with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Friday.

An additional $4.2 million is earmarked to help housing consortiums in Dakota County, Hennepin County and northeastern Minnesota acquire and rehabilitate rental housing, said Andrew Cuomo, assistant secretary for community planning and development at HUD. The money is part of the Home Investment Partnership Program.

"Programs like this are really the solution to homelessness because they prevent it from happening in the first place," Cuomo told about 800 people at a National Conference of Homelessness in Minneapolis.

The $25 million in community development block grants is earmarked for 44 small cities and rural county projects,

Housing continued on page 5B

said Peter Gillette, director of the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development. They include $149,000 to help 15 low-income households buy homes in St. Clair, Minn., to $553,000 to Lac qui Parle County to rehabilitate 43 homes owned and occupied by low- or moderate-income families.

And if Congress approves the proposed HUD budget, Minnesota could see a significant increase in funding to combat homelessness, Cuomo said. For example, the budget, introduced in Congress this week, calls for doubling funds for homeless projects to $1.7 billion in 1995.

For Minnesota, it calls for increasing the annual funding for the homeless from $4 million to $24 million, Cuomo said. St. Paul would see an increase from an average of $800,000 to $4.5 million. Minneapolis would see an increase from an average of $1.1 million to $8.2 million in 1995.

Minnesota cities have been underserved by the HUD funding formula, which essentially funds the best grant writers instead of those who have the most need, Cuomo said.

The new HUD budget proposal also calls for changing the way the federal government distributes money for the homeless, he said. Under the current system, there are six grant categories — such as emergency shelter grants and rural homelessness assistance — with different rules and regulations.

HUD has proposed consolidating homeless funding into one pot, much like community development block grants, and giving the money to local governments to spend as they wish.

Advocates for the homeless in Minnesota like the idea.

"The consolidated plan is what we've been waiting for since 1988," said Sue Watlov Phillips, a board member of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. "It allows us to decide how to use those dollars. If we don't want to build shelters, we can build housing."

But she said she's disappointed with the overall funding increases proposed by HUD for homeless projects. It's still "peanuts," given the seriousness of the problem, she said.

National advocates for the homeless were not as thrilled with Cuomo's idea to consolidate funds. They worried that funding could become a victim of local politics if all the decisions were made at home.

"Historically, when you consolidate programs into one block they've been easier to cut," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Karnas also doubted that Congress would pass the bigger HUD budget. But U.S. Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., said he thought it had a "good chance."

"But there's a lot of competition [for dollars]," he said.

Vento and Cuomo addressed an overflow crowd at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The conference, which ends today, was a rare occasion that brought together single poor mothers, men in suits and ties, and young men and women in jeans and baseball jackets.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH APR 2 3 1994

More Flood-Aid Money Set For Missouri

β1

r Jo Mannies
id Schlinkmann
the Post-Dispatch Staff

The federal government is giving Missouri
ıd ı d its major cities almost $80 mil-
ın in additional aid to help victims of last
ar's flooding.

he money has few strings attached. But of it is expected to be used for the maining buyouts of homes and businesses, id for road and bridge repairs, area officials id Friday.

The $80 million is in addition to about $57 illion previously awarded to the state for ood relief. Most of the new aid — about 56.6 million — will go to the state, which divide the money as it deems fit to arious areas around the state.

The rest is earmarked by federal officials go directly to specific cities and counties:

- $5.2 million to the city of St. Louis.
- $5.6 million to St. Louis County.
- $4.9 million to the city of St. Charles.
- $7.3 million to be divided among several her ropolitan areas around the state.

This aid has fewer restrictions than the allocations, said Kenneth Lange, head the St. Louis office of the Department of ousing and Urban Development.

There's one major catch: None of the new d can be used to help any of this month's ood victims who weren't flooded last year. means some newly flooded residents ong the Meramec River are out of luck, later aid is earmarked for their plight.

H Majority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-St. Louis County, announced the 80 million package Friday at a press conference in front of vacant, flood-damaged homes Lemay. But county officials say much of eir share of the new money will be used lsewhere because those homes were bought ut with earlier aid.

County Executive George R. "Buzz" West-l said about $3 million of the new money will buy out homes along the Meramec River and in Valley Park. In both areas, the county did not get enough money in the earlier wave of federal aid, he said.

Of the remainder, about $1.25 million would be used to help buy out about 25 businesses in Lemay, most of them along Lemay Ferry Road just south of the River Des Peres. The county also is seeking federal aid from another program to help pay for those buyouts. Westfall said the firms will be moved up the road, where a new business district will be created.

The new grant is in addition to $11.7 million previously awarded to the county. County officials previously had announced plans to buy out 419 homes: 90 in Lemay and the remainder in Eureka, Valley Park and other areas along the Meramec. In all the cases, the buildings will be razed and the sites turned into parks and green space, Westfall said.

Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. said the city has yet to determine how it will spend the new aid.

"We just found out about it this morning," he said at the press conference with Gephardt. With earlier aid, the city had said it would buy out about 60 homes near the River Des Peres.

Taking note of some public concern about the federal budget deficit, Gephardt said the flood aid is money well spent. The next time a major flood hits vulnerable areas like Lemay, he said, "no people will be affected."

Also attending the announcement was Rep. Alan Wheat, D-Kansas City. He said flooding last summer affected every congressional district in the state.

Bosley, Westfall and Wheat praised Gephardt, saying he had used his political muscle to get the extra money for Missouri. Gephardt got the aid tacked on in February to a bill allocating earthquake aid for Southern California.

The house was being rebuilt, but it now has $50,000 in earthquake damage. Saberzadeh was told at a Federal Emergency Management Administration center that the family can't get a grant because it wasn't living in the house during the quake. The family continues to pay a $2,300 monthly mortgage, plus $800 rent for two rooms where it now lives.

"It's a nightmare," Saberzadeh said. "Every morning before I open my shop, I'm someplace. I'm in this line, that line, at this interview, that interview. I'm being gobbled up by paperwork."

Some shop owners are devising new ways to drum up sales. The Kids at Heart gift shop and Coco's restaurant, both in Northridge Garden Center, offered discounted food and merchandise one recent Saturday to customers in pajamas.

silk plant hangings, premium hand soap, ceramic decor and free cookies, and replaced her "super-duper" phone with a basic model. Many customers have trickled back in. "Their nails were a mess," Dellibovi said.

But some find their hope running thin. Harry Paissides, co-owner of Reseda Hye Market, said 80% of his business disappeared when many of the Middle Eastern immigrants who frequented his specialty grocery were forced from nearby apartments.

Sujatha Balasubramanian, owner of Paru's Indian restaurant, and Gianni Fontana di Trevi, who owns a dry-cleaning shop, used to rely on referrals and employees from Northridge Fashion Center for business. With that mall closed for several months, they wonder how long they can hang on.

Landlords also complain of trying times. Bill Matthews, who manages two strip malls on the block that are owned by his family, has completed repairs there and has been negotiating with tenants over rents. He said he's trying to restructure his debt with a mortgage banker whose attitude is, "If you can't enforce contracts with tenants, we will."

At Northridge Garden Center, new owner Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Co. in Hartford, Conn., won't charge tenants rent while structural repairs are under way.

But some shopkeepers decided not to wait. Helmut Bchensky, owner of Bea's Swim & Sport, pictured an aftershock hitting while customers were trying on swimsuits, so he reopened his shop in Thousand Oaks.

But others, like Jackie Jones, plan to stick it out.

On a wall by her shop entrance, she hung the plate that outlasted the quake as a symbol of endurance and a reminder that "I'm supposed to be here."

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

Los Angeles Times

Date: APR 23 1994

After the Quake, Business Still Shaky

By PATRICE APODACA
TIMES STAFF WRITER

D1

The three months since the Northridge earthquake have sorely tested the resources, creativity and optimism of merchants along a hard-hit block of Reseda Boulevard.

They've dipped into savings and taken on debt to replace lost merchandise, haggled over leases and coped with a maze of bureaucratic demands. But each week has seen more and more shops open for business.

Sales are down 10% to 80%, and for many merchants, staying in business remains a day-to-day struggle. Still, a gritty determination to survive pervades the community.

Consider Jackie Jones, owner of Jones Coffee Co. When she first viewed the quake devastation at her boutique—half a block north of the Northridge Meadows apartments, where the temblor killed 16 people—the only item left intact among the spilled coffee beans and shattered Victorian collectibles was a solitary plate. After 15 years, Jones thought she would never open her doors again.

Yet open she did. Jones called vendors to replace her $50,000 in lost merchandise and worked out deals to defer payments. She tapped her savings while waiting for word on her Small Business Administration loan application. But Jones now sees just half as many customers as before the quake, and she's selling more tacky wax and earthquake-proof plate hangers than expensive china.

"We're a breakable business," she said with a sigh. "It's going to take a while for people to buy breakables again."

Merchants say they've lost business because former customers who lived in now-condemned apartments have left the area, while homeowners are too busy fixing their houses. Some shopkeepers saw a temporary jump in sales following the earthquake, which they attribute to sightseers who made the Northridge Meadows apartments a tourist stop. But those crowds have abated, and for many, business has slowed again.

Demolition of Northridge Meadows is scheduled for May 2, and business owners now worry that the tear-down process will prevent customers from getting to them.

Some businesses have called it quits. In the once-thriving Northridge Garden Center, where Jones has her shop, half the spaces are vacant. The former owner of the mini-mall also walked away last month, signing the deed over to the lender, who is just now starting to repair cracked walls and damaged floors and ceilings.

Down the street, Roya Saberzadeh, owner of Rochie's Greek Row, said sales are half the pre-quake level. Her clothing and memorabilia shop caters to Cal

Please see QUAKE, D2

State Northridge sororities and fraternities, but enrollment is down and many campus facilities are closed.

With a $5,000 monthly overhead, Saberzadeh is losing money and wonders how she'll replace wrecked equipment. She got a 15% rent reduction but is disputing rent payments from just after the quake.

She'd like to get an SBA loan and start a mail-order catalogue to lessen her dependence on CSUN. But her loan application hasn't been filed because she must re-create necessary tax documents that were lost in a fire that destroyed her family's Chatsworth house a year ago.

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CHARLOTTE OBSERVER APR 28 1994

Tornado victims pick up pieces without federal help

By GARY WIREMAN
Staff Writer

1C

Few folks fretted in Gaston County this week when the federal government refused full disaster relief for last month's tornado victims.

Most victims of the March 27 storm are insured and have already begun rebuilding, emergency management officials said.

It was a different story in harder-hit Boiling Springs. Most residents also were insured, but the town only had coverage against building damage.

Now it must come up with $150,000 to clear fallen trees, rebuild power lines and repave roads.

That's a lot of money, town officials say, considering their annual budget is just $565,000.

"It's going to affect the town pretty severely," town administrator Rick Howell says. "It will impact the current operating budget."

On Wednesday, Gov. Jim Hunt formally protested the Federal Emergency Management Agency's decision Tuesday not to help North Carolina recover.

Even though the storm caused $36 million in damage across the state, federal officials say that's not enough to warrant disaster relief.

Some uninsured victims may still be eligible for low-interest federal loans, however.

North Carolina was one of several states damaged when the massive storm system skipped across the South on Palm Sunday.

At least two tornadoes zeroed in on Gaston County. Seventy-three homes were damaged, and rebuilding costs exceed $1 million, said Gaston's emergency management director Bob Phillips.

In Cleveland County, officials reported $4.5 million in damages.

Worst hit was Boiling Springs, where a tornado touched down shortly before dusk fell. Howling winds tore steeples from churches, uprooted centuries-old trees and ripped roofs off homes.

As in Gaston, most Cleveland victims were insured.

But several hundred people in Township One, just outside Boiling Springs, were not, says the Rev. Charles Gibbons of Boiling Springs United Methodist Church.

Many of their homes are still uninhabitable, Gibbons says.

"Those people down there are really hurting," Gibbons said. "There's still people living in some very makeshift things."

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER APR 27 1994

Hunt's office will protest denial of disaster aid for tornado victims

By GREG TREVOR and ERIC FRAZIER 1A
Writers

North Carolina today will formally protest the federal government's refusal to give full disaster relief to counties hurt by last month's tornadoes, officials said Tuesday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said Monday that North Carolina's damage could be fixed by state and local governments as well as the private sector — such as insurance companies and charities. The agency gives help only for uninsured losses.

The state has 30 days to appeal the denial.

Gov. Jim Hunt will file the state's official response to FEMA today, said spokeswoman Rachel Perry.

"Gov. Hunt's focus is to look under every rock to find available assistance to people who need help," she said.

To Willie Curry, the federal government's refusal just doesn't make sense.

Thanks to the March 27 tornado, his tiny clapboard house on west Charlotte's Old

Please see Aid/page 6A

Steele Creek Road has no roof, and he has no insurance to replace his rain-soaked furniture.

Curry and other Mecklenburg County residents suffered about $17 million of the state's $36 million in tornado damage. He doesn't understand why the damage isn't severe enough for President Clinton to name the storm's path a disaster area.

"I really don't know what to say about that," the 53-year-old tire shop worker said. "There's a lot of people who need help but can't get it."

If the federal government doesn't relent, North Carolina won't be eligible for federal grants for such things as temporary housing.

But the state can apply for other federal assistance that doesn't require a presidential disaster declaration. Available assistance includes low-interest loans to home and business owners from the Small Business Administration.

"It's not a turn-down of federal assistance. There are other federal assistance programs available that meet the need as we see it," said FEMA spokesman Carl Suchocki.

In a letter to Hunt, FEMA Director James Witt wrote that North Carolina's request was denied because:

- Fewer than one-half of the families affected are considered to be low-income.
- Most of the damage is covered by insurance.
- Most of the affected buildings not covered by insurance suffered damage described as minor or minimal.
- The damage didn't create any continuing health or safety risks.

North Carolina budgeted about $1 million this year for storms and other emergencies. Most of that money was spent cleaning up from Hurricane Emily along the Outer Banks last summer.

The state uses the money primarily to cover the expenses of state agencies during disasters — such as paying overtime to state workers to clean up debris blocking roads. In the past, the state has used some of the money to match federal grants to help uninsured individuals and families.

There's less than $400,000 left in the fund. The Council of State — a 10-member board consisting of the governor and other officials elected statewide — controls the fund.

The council could take up the issue at its next meeting on Tuesday.

Of the $36 million in storm damage statewide, only $1.9 million was uninsured, N.C. emergency management officials say.

Most of Mecklenburg's damage was insured, and local governments were healthy enough to help residents by performing such tasks as clearing storm debris from roads and yards, said Wayne Broome, director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg emergency management office.

"It just didn't come up to the numbers the federal government requires," he said.

A state lawmaker from Charlotte wants to make sure public-housing residents' personal belongings, not just the buildings, are covered in another severe storm.

State Rep. Pete Cunningham, D-Mecklenburg, said he may sponsor legislation to create an insurance pool to cover public-housing residents and their personal property.

The pool would be similar to insurance for homeowners or renters, said Cunningham, who chairs the House Insurance Committee. He hopes to sponsor an insurance bill during the upcoming legislative session, which begins May 24.

"I'm sorry that the feds did not look at this as a major loss. It's just regrettable," Cunningham said. "They should be able to be covered for their personal belongings. The fact is, with their income level, it may be a problem getting insurance coverage. . . .

"These families, their average income out there is less than $10,000. Any kind of loss — food, clothing — to those people, it's a major loss," Cunningham said.

Paul Mahoney, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Insurance, said department officials haven't seen a proposal from Cunningham.

"It's a possibility that we'd certainly be glad to look into," Mahoney said. "There's little incentive for the private sector to provide that kind of coverage."

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 27 1994

Becoming the Master of Disaster

B6

A meeting on Monday in Washington of federal officials involved in the Northridge quake relief produced two very useful ideas. One is that the widely praised federal effort will need to be even better next time. And the other is that the cost of disaster insurance is too onerous to be left to individuals or even to individual states but must be organized in the form of mandatory federal disaster insurance.

The multi-agency meeting and self-evaluation, attended by such disaster doyens as James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Henry G. Cisneros, the housing secretary and Federico Peña, the transportation secretary, did not bog down in an orgy of self-satisfaction. Indeed, despite its successes, the relief program, officials agreed, was plagued by too much confusion and too many errors. "This was a great experience," said one official. "But the Big One scares the bejesus out of us."

That helpful lack of smugness was reflected in the officials' keen sense that a national disaster-relief insurance fund is urgently needed. The time has come for Congress to take a hard look at making disaster insurance, be it flood, hurricane, earthquake or whatever, mandatory for the nation's property owners. Government simply doesn't have the resources to compensate all disaster-produced property losses. And only if the risks are spread widely can the premium for basic, meat-and-potatoes coverage be kept so low that it can be required of individuals.

The Monday meeting was a useful reminder that the effort to create such a national insurance fund needs to be mounted now. The memory of the Jan. 17 quake is fresh enough that the idea should still engage the attention of the entire California delegation. The vicious tornado in Texas on Monday should arouse that state's representatives to action. Each month seems to bring some fresh rebuke from Mother Nature. The only way not to leave ordinary Americans in the financial lurch is to create some sort of natural-disaster protection act that would assist states in adopting stiffer building codes, give private insurance companies some incentives to make quakes and other perils more insurable and require basic natural-disaster insurance coverage.

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 27 1994

LOS ANGELES COUNTY B2

11th Service Center Opens for Earthquake Victims

Federal and state disaster officials have opened the 11th service center for victims of the Northridge earthquake, after shutting down the last Disaster Assistance Center at the Hollywood Recreation Center.

All services that had been provided at the application center will be offered at the new Earthquake Service Center, 6385 Hollywood Blvd. The new center will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 27 1994

U.S. Official Retires Amid Freeway Repair Grumbling

■ Bureaucracy: Federal highway administrator may be a casualty of the state's handling of projects.

By VIRGINIA ELLIS and NORA ZAMICHOW
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

SACRAMENTO—California's top federal highway administrator has abruptly taken early retirement, the first apparent casualty of the Clinton Administration's unhappiness with the state's handling of the federally financed rebuilding of the quake-damaged freeways.

Roger E. Borg, 55, quietly stepped down earlier this month as the California director of the Federal Highway Administration, after his superiors expressed dissatisfaction with his oversight of the state's reconstruction of vital Los Angeles freeways damaged in the Northridge earthquake. The reconstruction has been a joint federal-state project, with the state directing the work and the federal government providing all the financing.

Borg said in an interview Tuesday that he had been considering retirement but decided to end his 29-year career after Washington officials criticized him for being unaware of the state's dramatically accelerated schedule for reopening of the Santa Monica Freeway.

Calling the Washington reaction a "disappointment," Borg said the criticism had come at a time when he thought top officials should instead be praising his staff for their round-the-clock efforts to rebuild the freeway. "I was think-

Please see FREEWAYS, A10

ing we should be sitting here celebrating and we were not," he said.

While Los Angeles hailed the speedy restoration of the Santa Monica Freeway, delivered 69 days ahead of schedule, Borg's handling of the contracting and reconstruction work came under fire within the agency.

Top U.S. transportation officials confirmed that Borg and his staff had been questioned about several issues, including why they had allowed the state to mislead them on the date the Santa Monica would open to traffic and to grossly overestimate the costs of the rebuilding effort. Initial estimates of $1.3 billion were cut by $647 million earlier this month.

The officials said they also were upset that they had to learn from a Times report that the two newly constructed bridges on the Santa Monica would need seismic strengthening at the abutments to prevent the freeway's closure in a major earthquake.

"It was his [Borg's] general oversight of the reconstruction project, and the fact that we didn't have any information about the seismic retrofit issues, that the estimates for the highways were grossly overstated, that the construction schedules were not really on the mark," said a federal transportation official who requested anonymity.

Borg said it was unfair that he was criticized for the initial inflated estimates because he was in Central America on vacation when they were calculated. When he returned, he said, the estimates already had been forwarded to Congress for funding.

The internal criticisms, Borg said, also focused unfairly on relatively minor issues.

"We were working to restore service. We were working to serve the people of Los Angeles," he said.

His direct supervisor, Regional Federal Highway Administrator Tom Ptak, said that Borg had asked approval to take early retirement a few days after the reopening of the Santa Monica, and it was granted.

Federal highway officials who worked for Borg said he came into the office April 15, announced his retirement and left for the day. He has not returned.

As California director, Borg headed the largest division within the federal agency. From his headquarters in Sacramento, the engineer supervised a staff of 65 and oversaw the expenditure on California highways of about $2 billion a year in federal funds.

With his early retirement, effective May 1, Borg gives up a $105,556 annual salary and the opportunity to collect his maximum pension. His supervisors said they had not yet calculated his pension.

Both the Wilson Administration and the Clinton Administration have sought to take credit for the early reopening of the heavily traveled Santa Monica Freeway. Less than three months after two of its bridges collapsed in the Jan. 17 earthquake, construction was completed on replacement structures and the world's busiest freeway was reopened.

To the chagrin of the Democratic Administration in Washington, however, Republican Gov. Pete Wilson was the one who basked most in the glory. One day after state officials advised a U.S. Senate hearing that construction on the bridges would not be completed for another month, Wilson made headlines by announcing that the freeway would in fact be opened in just a week.

Wilson scheduled the formal opening for 10 a.m. on April 12 and Vice President Al Gore announced that he would attend. But then with only two hours notice, an informal opening of the freeway—with Wilson presiding—was staged the night before.

Federal officials were stung. "We felt we had been working fairly well in partnership with the state and the city. Then for this to get sprung was certainly a violation of all we worked towards," said Richard Minz, an assistant to Transportation Secretary Federico Pena.

Some of the criticism was directed at Borg.

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C. 20472

Federal Highway Administrator Rodney Slater had not asked Borg to retire but Slater had "aggressively sought" to find out why he had not been better informed about the retrofitting of the new bridges and the opening of the Santa Monica, according to one transportation official.

Ptak said he, too, had told Borg of his displeasure over the way the opening of the Santa Monica freeway had been handled.

"Was I disappointed that we didn't have better information on some of the opening dates? That is correct," said Ptak. "And did I discuss this with Roger? That is correct."

Borg said he had been as surprised as everyone else by the announcement. "We had no information whatsoever to refute [what was said at the hearing]," he said. "Our folks had been on the construction job, had talked with the resident engineer, had inspected the works and we had no basis to say it was going to be done any quicker that that."

Dean Dunphy, Wilson's secretary for business, transportation and housing, said the suddenness of the retirement was bewildering to state officials.

"He rather suddenly retired after having done what the vice president and others said was a magnificent job of opening the freeway early," said Dunphy. "So it certainly caused some questions as to whether or not he retired on his own."

At the informal opening of the Santa Monica, federal officials were further embarrassed when reporters asked for comments on a Times story reporting that the newly finished bridges would have to be retrofitted because of a seismic weakness at the abutments. Not having been briefed, Pena said erroneously that the abutments did not need to be retrofitted.

This came on the heels of another surprise. Dunphy had announced that Caltrans had overestimated the cost of reconstructing the quake-damaged freeways. After closer review, he said the initial cost estimates of $1.3 billion were being reduced by $547 million.

Angry federal officials pointed out that eight states during last summer's Midwest floods were able to provide better estimates of damage than Caltrans did in assessing its losses.

"There are issues of accountability," one official explained. "When we go to Congress and say we need $1.3 billion to reconstruct freeways, they trust us—and so do the American people—that the number is going to be fairly accurate."

Dunphy defended Caltrans' action, saying that in order for Congress to take emergency action costs had to be estimated before there was time for a thorough inspection of the freeway damage. After site visits, he said officials were able to determine that many of the damaged bridges first thought to need replacement would need only repairs.

As for the opening of the freeway, he insisted that Wilson was not trying to preempt federal officials. He said the governor did not want to announce the reopening until inspectors could definitely confirm from a walk-through of the construction site that the bridges would, indeed, be completed by April 12.

He said that walk-through was not conducted until the day Wilson announced the reopening.

Although formal ceremonies were scheduled for April 12, he said the contractor had been directed to push the work as fast as he could. It was determined, he said, that traffic would be allowed on the freeway whenever that work was finished.

"My specific direction coming from the governor was to open that freeway as soon as it could possibly be opened and not wait for a ceremonial event, a ribbon cutting on the freeway," said Dunphy. "Our challenge was not to stage events but was to get that freeway finished."

LOS ANGELES TIMES APR 27 1994

Northwest Is Not Ready for the Big Ones

Warnings of a major quake, tsunami and volcanic mudflows are being ignored by most residents.

By JOHN BALZAR AS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, brutal winter storms—the Pacific Northwest has escaped the worst of nature's recent uprisings.

But—ah, yes, there is a very big BUT in this story—only the most fatalistic here can sleep easily, amid growing evidence of great dangers lurking below, beyond and above.

Add to that a pitiful lack of preparation and little experience with large-scale urban disasters, and you hear Northwesterners shrug uneasily among themselves and remark: "Boy, it's going to be awful. Hope I'm away on vacation."

The triple threat is for a colossal quake, a giant tsunami and rampaging mudflows from the volcano Mt. Rainier, 60 miles from Seattle. The picture is further darkened by unfavorable regional geography, suburban sprawl into volcanic danger zones, a plethora of old brick buildings, heavy reliance on bridges for transportation and a civic infrastructure already stretched thin.

This spring, scientists from Washington and Oregon issued the latest in a long string of eerie warnings: The region is ripe for a deep, giant jolt caused as the floor of the North Pacific thrusts itself under the North American continent—a subduction earthquake.

Among other things, the scientists measured unexpectedly rapid uplift of ground level along the Northwest coast, bulges rising 10 times as fast as elsewhere along the coast. The release of this pent-up energy could generate an earthquake of magnitude 8, the scientists figured. Other studies said a magnitude 9 quake could be expected from this bumping of tectonic plates.

Judging from the geologic record, such great quakes are infrequent. But their impact is huge: One point of land within sight of Seattle rose 23 feet during such a quake about 1,100 years ago. Scientists say there is evidence of a tsunami inundating Puget Sound, which is well inland from the ocean.

In modern times, a 7.1 quake shook Puget Sound south of Tacoma in 1949; and a 6.5 quake hit Seattle in 1965. Since then, Portland experienced a 5-plus earthquake, but Seattle has not moved.

Neither have government officials. The state commissioned an earthquake preparedness study in 1991, but few of its recommendations were accepted. For several years, Washington governors have requested appropriations to upgrade earthquake preparedness but were rebuffed by the state Legislature. This year, for the first time, $650,000 was approved. This may allow the state to hire its first earthquake planner.

Officials in Washington look at California with envy when it comes to readiness. "If California is a 10 on the scale, the most prepared, we are still a 1 or 2," says Terry Simmons of the state Department of Transportation.

With all of its lakes, rivers and Puget Sound islands, the region is inordinately dependent on bridges. The state has begun strengthening these lifelines, but unless the pace is increased, it will take 71 years to complete work on all of the bridges.

After January's 6.8 Northridge quake, experts here expressed frustration with the "so-what?" attitude of many here. "They're going to have to be actually dragging bodies out before there's a concerted effort in this state," state geologist Steve Palmer said.

Seattle has undertaken a preparedness program, but only recently. In the process, officials discovered two public buildings—the police station, where the 911 emergency switchboard is located, and the Seattle City Light utility headquarters—are too unsound to retrofit and will have to be replaced.

Tsunamis, huge ocean waves, are often associated with coastal, subduction-type quakes. In 1992, scientists here began reevaluating the Northwest's vulnerability.

Sand berms were discovered on the Washington coast from what is believed to have been a tsunami 300 years ago. This is considered significant in view of the scant evidence

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remaining from the 9-plus earthquakes of the 1960s in Chile and Alaska.

Almost as worrisome is Mt. Rainier, which the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash., calls the most dangerous volcano in America. That's because of its size (14,410 feet high), its massive mantle of stored ice and snow and its proximity to the dense population of Seattle-Tacoma.

The mountain has not sprung to life for 150 years, and has not seen a full-scale eruption in about 2,000 years, but Rainier has a history of generating giant mudflows, or lahars.

An estimated 156 billion cubic feet of ice and snow are stored on its unstable flanks, more than all the other Cascade volcanoes combined. Even a small quake or the everyday rotting of the mountain could trigger a stupendous, fast-moving mudflow.

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St. Louis Post Dispatch 4-27-94

Federal Aid Flows Fast To Valley Park

B1

By Tim O'Neil
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

In a show of speedy service, government officials rushed to the Valley Park City Hall Tuesday with the first emergency rent checks for people who fled the Meramec River two weeks ago.

Officials said they opened for business hours after Clinton's declaration of disaster.

They may have been a bit hasty. Two of the seven families picked for the ceremony probably weren't eligible because they still live in their damaged homes, the federal officials said later.

John Miller, regional director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said it would make corrections if necessary. "We'll take care of that," Miller said.

But in the government's view, the impor- thing is that good was done. Officials said they opened for business hours after Presi- Bill Clinton's declaration last Thursday n g five eastern Missouri counties and St. l as disaster areas.

"Our goal is a rapid, compassionate re- ," Miller said. "It's my distinct plea- to present these so soon after the declaration."

The victims didn't sweat the bureaucratic details. John and Tracey Sisler of Valley Park said they have been living for two weeks in a 16 with their four children, the youngest of whom is 18 months.

"It isn't easy being all squished up in one room like that," said Tracey Sisler.

The Sislers have been out of their home at 504 Benton Avenue, about a half-mile fro the river, since September, when the first c the Meramec's three recent floods slamme a large trash container against thei foundation.

They were living one block away with her parents when the latest flood washed in.

Heavy rain that began April 9 swelled the Meramec, Big, Bourbeuse and Cuivre rivers and, to a lesser extent, the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Emergency agencies estimated the floods stranded 2,000 people, 1,000 of them in Valley Park.

There, the Meramec officially reached 37.4 feet April 14 — its third highest level on record, said Jack Burns, a National Weather Service hydrologist.

That was 3.6 feet lower than the worst flood, in 1982.

Burns said the 37.8-foot level of the second-place flood of 1915 was based on a high-water mark. Valley Park didn't have a river gauge until 1916.

The 1982 record is 4 feet below the planned height of the 3.5-mile, $20 million levee the Army Corps of Engineers began building last month. When completed — the target is late 1996 — the levee will ring the half of Valley Park that sits upon the 100-year flood plain.

Local relief officials have suspected that Valley Park's propensity for flooding is one reason for a disappointing turnout of volunteers to clean homes.

But Salvation Army spokeswomen said press reports of the problem had inspired a jump in calls Tuesday.

Two who showed up Tuesday were Tim Campbell, 68, of Glendale, and Karl Swanson, 32, of Manchester. They tore off the ruined press-board floorboard in the living room of Lucille Duff, 81, who was featured Tuesday in the Post-Dispatch.

"I saw her picture, and it looked like she needed help," said Campbell.

The Red Cross said 239 of its disaster workers, half of whom are from out of town, are helping.

Sandy Bohler, director of operations for Mid-East Area Agency on Aging, said the agency has money to hire professional cleaners for people 60 or older.

People can call the agency at 962-7999 or 1-800-243-6060.

Virginia Baldwin Hick of the Post-Dispatch staff contributed information for this article.

St. Louis Post Dispatch
4-27-94

Flood's Aftermath Is Fat City For Mosquitoes

By Harry Levins
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Among the hangovers from the Great Flood of '93: mosquitoes.

Health authorities in St. Louis County say backwater from flooding last year and again this spring has left plenty of breeding places for the insects.

"I don't have a crystal ball, but right now I think that in some areas, the mosquito problem will probably be as bad as it was last year," says the county Health Department's Bill Kottkamp.

Kottkamp heads the department's vector control units, and since mid-March he has had crews out checking. After the heavy rain earlier this month, those crews began spraying a special kind of bacterium that kills mosquitoes when they eat it. (Toxic chemicals are no longer used.)

Kottkamp explained Tuesday that mosquitoes preferred suburban life, with trees to protect them from the sun.

"Like people, the mosquito population isn't evenly distributed," he said. The urbanized central area of the county has less of a problem than wooded outlying areas, he noted.

Kottkamp is especially wary of St. Louis encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease. "Historically, it shows up a year or two after a flood," he said. "We had a severe epidemic in 1932."

To keep ahead of the disease, Kottkamp has quadrupled to 64 the number of mosquito traps his crews put out. Lab technicians then check the mosquitoes to see if they are bearing diseases.

These traps attract mosquitoes with dry ice and use tiny battery-powered fans to suck them in and snare them in cheesecloth. The dry ice acts as a bait because it's frozen carbon dioxide, the gas that humans and animals exhale when they breathe. When the dry ice turns into a gas and drifts into the air, the mosquito follows, thinking it's the breath of a potential meal.

With a week's notice, Kottkamp's unit is offering to do what it can to wipe out mosquitoes as uninvited guests at block parties and athletic events. County residents interested in getting such protection may call 854-6935.

In the city, Lee Huguley of the environmental health services unit said he, too, was expecting a heavy mosquito season. "But it'll be worse in the suburbs."

DENVER POST APR 27 1994

Rain and snow and dark of night

Rural Nebraska without power for past 16 days

By Kit Miniclier
Post Staff Writer

BH

A wet snowstorm followed by freezing rain downed tens of thousands of power poles — darkening homes and silencing water pumps, freezers, water heaters, washers, dryers and televisions across a wide swath of Nebraska 16 days ago — power has yet to be fully restored.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of rural Nebraskans remain without electricity today, as crews from five states work to restore power and Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson's staff prepares to ask President Clinton to issue a disaster declaration.

The declaration would clear the way for Sam to pick up 75 percent of the cost, now estimated at $45 million to $50 million, said Nelson's spokeswoman, Dara Troutman.

A formal request is expected within a day or two, as soon as the Federal Emergency Management Agency finishes its damage assessment, Troutman added.

Last weekend, at least 2,000 rural cus-ers in two counties were still without , as were at least 60 percent of farmers in several other counties, said Wayne Jacobsen of the Nebraska Public Power District.

Neither the governor's office, state civil defense headquarters nor Jacobsen had a reliable total for how many people spent the night of April 11 in the dark. Power restored to all but remote, rural areas within six or seven days, officials agreed.

Darkness descended on roughly one-third of central Nebraska — from McCook, about 60 miles east of Colorado, and eastward for 110 miles, from north to h.

"I'm sitting here in my truck looking at a spring landscape devoid of power poles," said Phillip Darby Jr., general manager of Dawson Public Power Co.

But trucks are rolling in with 35- to 45-foot pine poles to replace the 10,000 lost by his firm alone. And Darby hopes that power can be restored for field irrigation within 60 days, to provide life-giving water to parched fields by July 1.

Commercial power crews from Denver, Brighton and Fort Morgan have been working alongside crews from the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association for 12 to 16 hours a day since the emergency hit, said Jim Phinney, general manager of the McCook Public Power District. Crews from Kansas, South Dakota and Iowa are working across the state.

For the first 14 days of the blackout, third-generation Nebraska farmers Max and Suzanne Bartruff, of Eustis, relied on their generator. It died Sunday, and they borrowed another.

Some neighbors, though, have been using kerosene lanterns for light and dry ice to save food in dormant freezers, Mrs. Bartruff said.

Deprived of electricity for well pumps, many are hauling truckloads of water each day to livestock. And all are worried about whether power will be fully restored in time to irrigate the crops.

"We've heard we could get power again this week, or maybe next," said Mrs. Bartruff, whose neighbors have been visiting to shower, do laundry, or just get warm.

"Back in the old days (before electricity), they could handle this. But we can't. What you never had, you don't miss," she said of her ancestors, who cut ice in winter, made candles for light and chopped wood to burn for heat.

Asked if she used the emergency generator to power her television, she quickly replied: "Oh, yeah, I've got the TV on. You are talking to a spoiled housewife."

The electric water heater in the bunkhouse is still in use for the farmhands.

But the Bartruffs turn off the generator at night and don't use their microwave, clothes dryer or dishwasher — to avoid straining their power source or damaging low-voltage utilities.

Chicago Tribune 4-27-94

Flooded counties get federal aid OK

2/3

President Clinton on Tuesday declared eight central Illinois counties as federal disaster areas because of damage sufferod from torrential rainstorms earlier this month.

In announcing Clinton's action, Gov. Jim Edgar said the presidential declaration will set the stage for low-interest loans, grants, temporary housing and emergency food stamps to be made available to victims of the flooding.

Affected by the declaration are residents in Cass, Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Iroquois, Menard, Sangamon and Vermilion Counties.

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FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM APR 30 1994

Storm sites now eligible for U.S. aid

Dallas, Cooke named major disaster areas

By Lou Chapman PAL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

President Clinton declared Dallas and Cooke counties major disaster areas yesterday, hours before a new line of thunderstorms moved into North Texas, spawning a funnel cloud that touched down briefly in Terrell and tornado watches that stretched from Tarrant County to parts of the Hill Country and South Central Texas.

Thunderstorms and winds swept through Tarrant and Dallas counties last night, moving north and and prompting the National Weather Service to issue an overnight flash flood watch.

The new wave of storms came at the end of a week of tempestuous weather that started with a tornado Monday night that tore through Lancaster and DeSoto.

Clinton's declaration that Dallas and Cooke counties are major disaster areas opened the door for federal assistance to people whose homes and businesses were damaged by the tornadoes and

(More on RELIEF on Page 26)

thunderstorms.

"We are gratified that quick action was taken on this so that the citizens of these areas can begin putting their lives back together," said Gov. Ann Richards, who had asked the president for disaster relief.

Last night, a series of narrow storm fronts was moving through North Central Texas, causing intermittent and dispersed bursts of heavy rains and strong winds.

Most of the fronts were expected to dissipate in Tarrant and Dallas counties by midnight.

But a tornado warning was issued for the area east of Emory and north of Lake Fork in Rains County late last night.

Terrell police said the twister that touched down there knocked down a tree that fell onto a house, but no one was hurt. The storm also caused some roof damage, weather officials said.

In Waxahachie, Ellis County sheriff's Sgt. Sam Wolaver said someone called for help after hearing what the person believed were two young boys calling for help from Grove Creek. However, authorities said they had received no reports of missing children and called off the search late last night.

"The creek is normally about 12 feet wide and 6 to 8 inches deep, Wolaver said. But last night, it was reported to be about 3 feet, 5 inches deep, he said.

Lancaster, DeSoto and Gainesville were hit hardest by Monday's storms, which killed four people, injured dozens and decimated Lancaster's historic Town Square.

Lancaster and DeSoto are in Dallas County; Gainesville is the seat of Cooke County.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, said yesterday that at least 833 homes sustained some damage, including 405 that were destroyed or heavily damaged.

Designation as a federal disaster site makes residents and businesses eligible for federal aid to pay for repairs or replacement of buildings, temporary housing, clothing, medical expenses and other necessities, officials said.

Assistance ranges from rental payments for up to 18 months to low-interest loans of up to $200,000 to cover uninsured residential losses. Businesses may be eligible for loans of up to $1.5 million.

FEMA officials are expected to establish Disaster Application Centers in both counties no later than Monday and possibly as early as today.

One center will be in the Salvation Army store at the former Winn-Dixie on Pleasant Run Road in Lancaster, City Manager William Gaither said.

In the meantime, people who have suffered damage may call a toll-free number for assistance: (800) 462-9029.

The Texas Insurance Department in Austin has personnel available this weekend to answer storm victims' questions.

Lancaster, meanhile, continued to struggle with the hordes of gawkers and hawkers who have descended on the town since the disaster Monday night.

To relieve traffic and combat fraud, the city is reinstating a security zone around downtown that had been lifted the day before, and it has implemented strict rules on businesses, Gaither said.

"We began running into severe problems with sightseers, vendors, utility trucks — all of it," Gaither said. "It became very, very difficult to function."

Lancaster and nearby DeSoto have been besieged by the curious as well as the entrepreneurial.

"We've had people selling T-shirts, people in trucks loaded with sheet glass, lumber, flashlights, shovels — you name it, all kinds of things," Gaither said. "It was becoming so congested, it looked like a flea market."

Starting this morning, access will again be limited in an area bounded by Lancaster-Hutchins Road, Belt Line Road, Annette Street and Waynelee and Eighth streets.

Only property owners, cleanup and utility personnel, and people working with property owners will be allowed into the area, Gaither said.

To curb consumer deception, Lancaster Mayor Margie Waldrop has prohibited vendors from operating out of cars, trucks, trailers or mobile homes.

Waldrop also has forbidden any business to operate on public property until further notice. Businesses on private land must prove that they have the owner's permission to do business there.

Enterprises must also have a Texas sales tax certificate recorded by the city.

continued

"That means you're a bona fide business, not just some fellow who went down to the junk store and got a bunch of stuff to take down there and sell," Gaither said.

To help people who may have no phone service or cannot get to their homes or businesses, Southwestern Bell will offer free call-forwarding for 90 days from last Monday, said Anne Routsos, a spokeswoman with the Texas Public Utility Commission.

WASHINGTON TIMES MAY 02 1994

Lives lost to March tornado leave aching holes in Ala. town's heart

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Five weeks after a tornado devastated the small Alabama community of Piedmont, the town is recovering, but life has changed forever.

"It seems we're slowly waking up after this great nightmare," said Piedmont Mayor Vera Stewart.

On the morning of March 27, a tornado roared through this town of 6,000, destroying more than 200 homes and smashing the Goshen United Methodist Church as Palm Sunday services were under way.

Twenty persons died in the church, including the 4-year-old daughter of the church pastors, the Rev. Kelly Clem and her husband, the Rev. Dale Clem.

The tornado was part of a band of killer storms that wreaked havoc in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Forty-four persons were killed, and 157 were injured.

Vice President Al Gore toured the area four days after the tornado. Upon meeting the Clems, whose 2-year-old daughter survived, Mr. Gore hugged them and called them "a lesson in grace."

In Jasper, Ga., nine of the town's 11,000 residents were killed, most of whom were members of one family.

"One husband survived, but he's still in bad condition. There's only one son left, and he's staying with his grandma," said Luke Wigingpon of the Cagle Funeral Home.

The victims had been living in a double-wide trailer home. The tornado tossed it 30 feet in the air and "completely destroyed it," Mr. Wigingpon said.

A spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Georgia said that some $1.9 million had been approved to repair public properties and another $874,000 had been approved for families' personal use. The maximum amount allowed per family is $12,000. FEMA figures for Alabama were unavailable.

Piedmont is returning to "some semblance of normal," Mrs. Stewart said.

Every family that lost property took all the available assistance, and rebuilding is under way, she said. A distribution center that supplied nonperishable foods, clothing and furniture will be closing in about two weeks.

The outpouring of goods was "very moving," the mayor said. "We had shoes that were never worn and many of the clothes still had price tags on them."

Mrs. Clem said that about 20 volunteers were beginning to tear down the church structure. The rubble will be used to fill in the land behind the church, "so we can build out," she said.

Despite the rebuilding, the loss of the lives has left a deep wound in the community.

"So many people were connected with that church," Mrs. Stewart said. "Our lives are changed forever."

• *Jennifer Pinkerton contributed to this report.*

Dallas Morning News 4-30-94

3 areas declared disasters

Tornado victims qualify for aid

By Jennifer Nagorka
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

LANCASTER — President Clinton declared the tornado-ravaged areas of southern Dallas County and Gainesville federal disaster areas Friday.

The decree enables residents and business owners in the affected areas to apply for grants and low-interest loans immediately.

Parents calming kids' fears.	1A
Radar warns residents.	35A
Storms east of Dallas.	35A
Complete weather.	38A

The news came at the end of a day that began with sirens warning of another possible tornado, heavy rains that [illegible]pered cleanup efforts, the first funeral for a storm victim and children returning to makeshift classrooms in Lancaster schools not hit by the storm.

The news from the White House was welcome.

"It's obviously very important for the [illegible] in Lancaster and DeSoto," said U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas.

Said Lancaster Mayor Margie Waldrop: "It will certainly help. Any help is certainly appreciated. I'm a little appre[illegible]ive that people are going to think that this is going to pay for everything. It won't."

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said residents and business owners could immediately being applying for assistance by calling 1-800-462-9029 or, for the hearing-impaired, 1-800-462-7585 (TDD). The lines will operate 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Federal assistance includes rental payments for temporary housing; grants for minimal repairs to residences; grants to meet serious needs not covered by other federal programs; unemployment payments for workers who lost jobs because of the tornado; and low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses.

FEMA will open disaster application centers in the two storm-stricken areas.

Mr. Frost said the Lancaster office may open by Tuesday and also will serve DeSoto. Agency staff members will take and process applications and may begin disbursing aid within a week, he said.

Many youngsters returning to school were bleary-eyed after spending at least part of the wee hours Friday huddled in bathtubs.

Civil Defense sirens sounded in southern Dallas County as a series of funnel clouds swept through the area about 2 a.m. The twisters never touched down, but the warning unnerved children, school officials said.

"We had a lot of kids who were up all night," said Terry Parsons, principal of the badly damaged West Main Elementary.

His school's kindergarten, first- and second-grade classes were encamped in new quarters, the gymnasium at Lancaster High School's east campus.

"They're really panicked," Mr. Parsons said Friday morning as thunder rumbled outside. "It's good there's not too many windows in here."

Mr. Parsons said attendance for grades K-2 was about 85 percent of normal.

Most students seemed to take the dramatic events in stride. Several children pronounced themselves pleased with their makeshift school. Maintenance staff had quickly laid carpet and built plywood partitions to create classrooms in the gym. By Friday morning, teachers had hung posters and calendars. Desks had been pushed into circles or rows.

First-grader Lennon Hardin rated her new surroundings as better than her old classroom.

"We never even got desks," said 7-year-old Lennon as she sat at one in the gymnasium. "We had tables."

The children definitely remembered the storm.

"I waited in my mommy's bathroom because it didn't have any windows," said Kimberly Grace, 7.

Lennon remembered her mother's reaction.

"I was scared a whole bunch when my mom said, 'I love you,' because it made me think we were going to die," Lennon said.

Teachers had different concerns.

"Before they put these rugs in, I was really worried," Ms. Reyna said, citing the cacophony possible when a large, echoing gym is filled with young children. "It's going to work out."

It will take much longer to get the town working. City staff members struggled to piece together a new headquarters at a strip shopping center on Pleasant Run Road. Friday afternoon, the phone lines were still unconnected and the place closed to the public. Rain-spattered people who wanted information or a pass to get into damaged areas lined up in the lobby of the public safety building on North Dallas Avenue.

The shattered neighborhood — a heartbreaking sight in sunny weather — looked even more grim under Friday's steady, chilling rain. Water ran fast through the gutters, coursing into the street around piles of debris. Shallow seas formed in former front yards.

City officials reinstalled police barricades around the most heavily damaged area, saying swarms of people got in the way of work crews after an earlier blockade was lifted.

"We just came close to dump-truck gridlock down there," said Steve Vaughn, regional liaison for the Texas Department of Public Safety Emergency Management Division.

Only homeowners, cleanup and utility crews will be allowed past the roadblocks until all major utility lines are repaired, which could be as soon as Monday, Mr. Vaughn said.

Jerry Johns, of the Southwestern Insurance Information Institute, said insurance companies will pro- 150,000 claims, and the damage estimate keeps climbing for the storms that included hail and wind damage in 12 North Texas counties.

"We have upped our estimate of damage from Monday night's storm $400 million," he said.

At First Baptist Church in Lancaster, about 300 friends, relatives neighbors of Ed Burnett gathered to bid farewell to the longtime resident, one of three people killed in the storm.

Mr. Burnett, 81, suffered an apparent heart attack as he and his wife, Dorothy, surveyed the damage done to their home. The couple had survived the initial impact of the tornado by taking shelter in a closet.

"The deeper you dig into Ed Burnett, the deeper his faith will dig into you," said Lindsay Cofield, the church's pastor.

Trying to make sense of the tragedy that struck Mr. Burnett's family and Lancaster was mentioned often by Mr. Cofield in his eulogy.

Mr. Cofield prayed, "Even in this tragedy that doesn't make sense, we today that you bring great good of what seems all bad right now."

FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF

Who's eligible: Individuals, families and business owners affected by storms in Dallas and Cooke counties since Monday.

Phone bank: Tornado victims can apply for relief by calling toll-free 1-800-462-9029 or, for the hearing-impaired, 1-800-462-7585 (TDD). Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Be prepared to provide name, permanent address, phone number, insurance coverage and information to substantiate losses.

Disaster centers: Disaster application centers will be established as soon as possible in DeSoto, Lancaster and Gainesville.

Programs available:

- Rental payments up to 18 months for temporary housing.
- Grants for minimal repairs to make residences habitable.
- Grants up to $12,200 to help meet serious disaster needs not covered by other programs.
- Unemployment payments for up to 26 weeks for those who lost jobs because of the tornadoes.
- Low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses.
- Loans up to $1.5 million for small businesses with disaster-related cash-flow problems.
- Loans up to $500,000 for farmers and ranchers to cover production and property losses.
- Crisis counseling, income tax assistance, advice on legal, veterans and Social Security matters.

SOURCE: Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Dallas Morning News

HOUSTON CHRONICLE APR 30 1994

Disaster relief cleared A36

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has signed a disaster declaration clearing the way for federal assistance for North Texas residents who suffered damages from tornados earlier this week, Rep. Martin Frost said Friday.

The aid for Dallas and Cooke counties was requested by Gov. Ann Richards after Lancaster, DeSoto and Gainesville were hammered by twisters on Monday and Tuesday.

The declaration will allow qualified residents to obtain assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for temporary housing, medical expenses, clothing and other costs.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM MAY 02 1994

Amid the pain, Lancaster sees ray of hope

City Manager Paul Gaither says 223 homes and 80 percent of the city's historic Town Square were destroyed. Residents will begin applying for federal aid today.

BY ROLAND S. MARTIN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

p A1

LANCASTER — Barbara Yarbrough has visited the site of what used to be Yarbrough's Cleaners every day since last week's tornado, and it still pains her to see the ruins of the business her father-in-law started in 1956.

"We assumed that the walls were at least there, but when we got down here there was nothing. It's pretty heartbreaking. My husband and I have shed a few tears," Yarbrough said yesterday as her husband, Quinton, removed an American flag that was among the destroyed dry-cleaning presses.

"Every day we come back, and we look at it, and we know what we're going to see, but it's still devastating," she said.

Such was the mood under blue skies yesterday as the massive cleanup continued in this town of 22,000 hard hit by the April 25 tornado that killed three people, left many homeless and destroyed generations of work in a few seconds.

City Manager Paul Gaither said at a news conference that 223 homes were destroyed, 25 sustained major damage, 202 were affected in some way and 58 businesses were destroyed. More than 80 percent of the city's historic Town Square was destroyed.

But in an expression heard throughout the town, Gaither said that life will be normal again. School classes began Friday and

(More on LANCASTER on Page 4)

City Hall will be open at 8 a.m. today, albeit at another location.

Utility officials also expected every household that can receive telephone service, electricity and gas to have service by yesterday evening.

Gaither said city officials are aware that the destruction will wreak havoc on the city's resources for some time.

He said officials with the Dallas Central Appraisal District have been combing the wreckage to determine the fiscal effects.

"Obviously, the council realizes we're going to lose some of our tax base and some of our utility rate base," he said. "We just don't have a good handle on what that is."

Now that President Clinton has declared Dallas County a federal disaster relief area, residents who need assistance will be able to seek federal money beginning at 9 a.m. today, when the Federal Emergency Management Agency opens its disaster application office at 1061 Pleasant Grove Road. That site is a former Winn-Dixie grocery store.

He said residents will also be able to seek insurance, housing and other support services at that location.

With the daunting task of rebuilding ahead, Gaither said, the city is discussing its needs with surrounding cities.

"Our fellow cities . . . understand that there is a long-term need, and they have indicated to us that they want to be sure that the city of Lancaster has what we need," he said. "We don't know what all those things are yet, but they are committed to helping us."

Gaither and Steve Vaughn, regional liaison for the Texas Department of Public Safety's division of emergency management, said there have been reports of price gouging from construction companies, but no one has been cited because of a lack of evidence.

Vaughn said state officials are touring sites in the hardest-hit areas, talking to residents and looking for unscrupulous contractors. He said they are prepared to take action if need be.

Gaither said the state can impose price restrictions, but he said that is not necessary yet.

Vaughn said residents have received information packets in English and Spanish outlining the steps to take to repair their homes.

Although some residents are planning to rebuild, Doug Henderson is leaning toward having the remnants of his 19th century home bulldozed.

Taking a break on his front porch yesterday, Henderson contemplated his options. The powder blue house had its roof and second floor torn off and several downstairs rooms gutted.

"I don't know what we're going to do," he said as nearly a dozen volunteers tossed bricks, lumber and tile to various sides of his debris-filled front yard.

"We're going to try to salvage the decorative work out of it. I'm still waiting for an engineer with some historical experience to tell me whether my assessment's right, which is bulldoze. A lot of people are saying to me that I shouldn't be hasty about that."

LOS ANGELES TIMES MAY 02 1994

EARTHQUAKE/THE LONG ROAD BACK A1

2 Neighborhoods, 2 Destinies—in One L.A.

On a lonely stretch of Hollywood Boulevard, a neighborhood is tumbling toward ruin, its swift deterioration sparked by more than 20 seconds of shaking Jan. 17. Virtually overnight, the vibrant street has turned into a ghost town, except for the squatters and drug dealers who have moved into the neighborhood.

Sixteen miles away in Granada Hills, a middle-class block of Balboa Boulevard, so battered by the Northridge quake that residents dubbed it "Ground Zero," has begun a firm if painful rebound. Contractors clutter the block, handing out estimates. Fresh piles of rubble dot yards where workers have begun gutting damaged homes. Every day, residents get word from U.S. officials that low-interest loans are on the way.

If both neighborhoods suffered similar destruction from the earthquake's fury, their destinies pose a striking contrast, so different that Los Angeles' recovery has become a tale of two cities—one a suburb of homeowners energetically rebuilding, the other an urban enclave caught in a swift downward spiral.

Times urban affairs writer Sonia Nazario profiles the neighborhoods on Pages A14 and A15.

Where Life Was Hopeful, Determination Is Winning Out

A14

The instant the earth heaved under Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills, sidewalks buckled into two-foot-high humps, back yards were sundered by four-foot wide chasms, and several massive water mains under the block blew, turning the six-lane road into a river.

Joseph and Zetella Partlow were clutching each other in bed when their son Joe cried out. The water main explosion had propelled a 300-pound chunk of asphalt across the pre-dawn sky, through their roof and into Joe's bed, barely missing him.

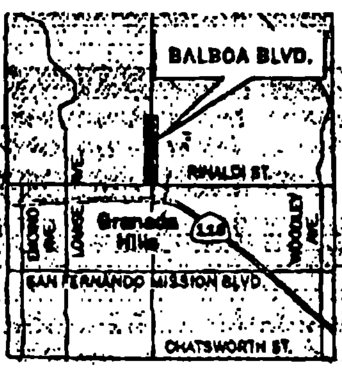
One spark, and a huge gas main under Balboa exploded, carving a 10-foot-crater that spewed 60-foot flames and cast an eerie orange light over the devastation. Palm trees ferried the fire from house to house. High-voltage wires dangling in water began smoking. The Partlows had 10 minutes to snatch a few paintings, one bottle of insulin, and 10 pieces of clothing. By then, the curtains were on fire.

Across the street, Dawn Herrera screamed to her husband to get the children. Each time Philip Herrera tried walking from the master bedroom to the nursery where 3-week-old Nicole and 4-year-old Quinn slept, the quake slammed him to the ground. Philip began crawling. In covering a few yards, he suffered two broken toes, a black eye and bruises over his entire body. He took a child in each arm, but the knee-deep waters kept him from prying open the front door. He smelled gas everywhere. Philip Herrera broke a window and escaped.

Five of the 40 houses on Balboa burned to the ground. Many others were rendered unlivable.

Back In Business

In a middle-class area along Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills, five of 40 houses burned to the ground and many others were badly damaged. But optimistic residents are already well on the way to rebuilding.



retiree Kenneth A. Walkey looked at his devastated house, which he had worked a lifetime to pay off, and for the first time in 30 years, he cried like a baby.

That morning, residents thought they were witnessing the apocalypse. But three months later, Balboa's well-tended lawns and modest homes are mending, and optimism abounds. Like those on many middle-class blocks, residents have tapped government aid, earthquake insurance, savings and friends to reconstruct.

Walkey's contractors have begun tearing up his house for repairs. Architects are sketching plans to rebuild another home from the ground up. At one end of the block, much of the Knollwood Village Shopping Center has reopened. At the other, escrow is about to close on a home that sold before the quake. Street crews working round the clock have smoothed gaping holes, laid pipes and repaved. Closed for weeks, Balboa again hums with traffic.

"People will rebuild," says retiree Jerry Dinoff, who has already received offers for the lot where his house stood before burning down.

Still, Balboa's renewal has come at great personal cost, especially for its newer residents. People who had squeezed onto the block in recent years now face a diminished lifestyle as they take loans that will swell already high mortgage payments.

With dawn's light Jan. 17, Philip Herrera knew his life had permanently changed. The quake had rocked his house off its foundation. Flames had charred one corner of it. The water main's torrent had stripped away every blade of grass on his lawn.

A third-generation Mexican American gardener, Herrera pushed a lawn mower for months without a day off to amass the down payment for his $212,000 Balboa home in 1988. As his fledgling landscaping business grew, he plowed profits into his home. He installed a glassed-in porch, a koi pond and a back-yard waterfall; a week before the quake he poured a basketball court so he could shoot hoops with his son Quinn.

"I put everything into this house. I never thought I could own something like this," he says in a choked voice, standing in brown muck that surrounds his stucco home. "It took us 10 years to get where we are. In 20 seconds, it was gone," he says, snapping his fingers.

With $120,000 in damage and with no earthquake insurance, Herrera runs his hands through his hair nervously. "I'm very scared now. I don't sleep at night," he says quietly. "I'm facing months of hell."

Herrera's response to the situation: a frenetic effort to rebuild. Already, the government has approved a $77,000 loan at 3.6% interest. With the help of friends who are contractors and some savings, he has stripped the inside of the house down to the dirt, repoured the foundation, replaced cracked water and gas pipes, and gutted the kitchen.

For nearly three months, the Herreras slept a few days each week at his in-laws' home 146 miles away, and the other days with his parents in San Fernando, where he and his wife and two children shared a bedroom.

They were finally able to move back into their half-repaired home April 9. "My little baby is back in her crib," says Dawn Herrera, cooing at her 5-month-old daughter. "Things are getting back to normal."

Thirteen houses south, the Korbekian family has snatched up a $60,000 government loan to mend several cracks that jag from foundation to roof—a move that will repair their house but cripple their finances. "I thought of walking away, but all I have is this house," says Avedis Korbekian, a quiet elevator mechanic who came to Granada Hills from Iran after the fall of the Shah. Over the years, $65,000 in mortgage payments and $50,000 in home improvements left meager savings.

"Fourteen years we work here. Now look what we have," his wife Jacquleen says in a thick Armenian accent, throwing up her hands in despair.

The Korbekian's $60,000 disaster loan means their mortgage payment will jump $380 a month, to $1,400, for the next 20 years. Jacquleen, who provides day care in their home, worries that the payments may be impossible to meet now that she has lost three of the six children she cared for before the temblor.

"It will be very hard, very tight," says the portly 56-year-old woman, shaking her head as she sips a brackish brew of Armenian coffee, then jumps skittishly in her living room chair as a truck rumbling by sets glasses in the china cabinet clinking.

Dashed are many hopes: buying a larger home, weekend trips to Las Vegas and Santa Barbara, the couple's planned trip this summer to Austria for the wedding of Avedis' brother, perhaps a last chance to see his mother and seven siblings flying in for the ceremony. "Life won't be the same. I'll never recover from this," Avedis says, staring blankly at the ground.

While nearly everyone on Balboa Boulevard feels permanently scarred by the quake, experts say middle-class homeowners like the Herreras and Korbekians are best served by disaster relief efforts. Government agencies provide a variety of low-interest loans that generally are not available to renters and the poor.

Still, Comerio, the Berkeley disaster expert, and others warn that even on middle-class blocks such as Balboa, there are limits to the largess. True to past disasters, only 60% of homeowners seeking low-interest Small Business Administration loans—the federal government's main recovery tool—are getting them. Many victims of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake waited two years for aid, said Comerio, who was hired by the state to study the recovery from that disaster.

More than half of the homeowners with earthquake insurance had not settled their claims four months or more after the 1987 Whittier Narrows quake, a separate 1993 study found. Only a third had 80% or more of their losses reimbursed; many said adjusters low-balled repair costs.

Protracted battles with insurance companies and government agencies ensure one thing: Stress and depression levels are much higher seven months after an earthquake than on the day the ground shakes, according to another study.

Among the stresses on Balboa: neighbors grappling to understand a system that seems unfair. People on Balboa who made costly earthquake insurance payments are furious when they see neighbors who did not buy the policies rewarded with taxpayer funds and low-interest loans. Even before the quake's dust had settled, marvels Joseph Partlow, one neighbor who makes $100,000 annual salary but did not have insurance was pleading for government assistance in Federal Emergency Management Agency lines. "You shouldn't expect the government to bail you out!" Partlow huffs.

Neighbors gossip about who got what. Some received FEMA grant checks for home repair totaling $3,450, while others with seemingly less damage got $5,100. Still others emerged empty-handed.

Kenneth Walkey, who will tap quake insurance and retirement savings to rebuild, puzzles over why he and many of his neighbors have been offered a government loan that covers only half the lowest estimate he received to reconstruct.

Up and down the block, disaster assistance has cemented views that a government largely funded by the middle class doles out disaster dollars mostly to the poor or illegal immigrants.

Jacquleen Korbekian complains that her family must repay their government loan with interest. "I expected a zero-interest loan," she says. "I paid taxes all my life. Other people don't work. They get food stamps, they get grants. It's not fair. It's the middle class who always lose out."

There is venom for the insurers, too. Kevin Patrick stands by a handwritten log five pages long taped to his kitchen wall that details dozens of calls he made trying to get a settlement from his earthquake insurer. Many believe companies are low-balling them. Herrera said that after 40 calls and threats of legal action, his homeowners insurance company has agreed to pay only a fifth of his fire damage costs.

"If they had a representative here you'd have to jail me or I'd beat them up," Herrera says, his hands curling into fists.

Many on Balboa have sought solace and support in one another, turning feuding neighbors into friends. Kenneth Walkey and his neighbor had not spoken in 20 years, mostly because the neighbor's dog had a habit of soiling Walkey's yard. Walkey retaliated by depositing the dog's waste in the neighbor's pool. When the block faced days without electricity after the temblor, the Walkeys offered to share their generator with the neighbors. Now they share stories of lousy contractors and callous insurers as the block begins to bloom.

DAILY CLIPS

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1994

distributed by
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Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C.

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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Date: MAY 10 1994

Reducing Disaster Tolls

718

SOMETHING encouraging has happened to natural disaster statistics over the past few decades. In some places death tolls have dropped substantially, even while populations boomed. The need now is to spread the benefits of early warning and disaster preparedness around the world.

That's why the United Nations designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In Yokohama, Japan, 1,000 delegates will meet May 23-27 to assess progress and develop an action plan.

While roughly 90 percent of the natural disasters occur outside industrialized countries, disaster mitigation is not just a third-world problem. Mitigation know-how does no good unless it is put to use. Even the technologically advanced United States has a poor record in this regard. Earth scientists continually warn of unwise development in flood- and earthquake-prone areas.

The experience of Bangladesh shows the value of informed preparedness. A tropical cyclone there killed more than 300,000 people in 1970.

When a comparable storm hit in 1985, the death toll was only 3 percent of the 1970 figure. Warnings were spread more effectively; people were better prepared.

Technology also plays a role. Improved storm-warning systems would be impossible without weather radar and satellites, radio communications, and computer technology. The US Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are developing a system to speed digitized aerial images of disaster areas to recovery officials. The new system, which produces images that can speed along the information highway, will get pictures to on-site officials in a matter of hours instead of days or weeks.

The main challenge in disaster reduction is to change the ancient mind-set that mislabels disasters as "acts of God" about which little can be done. That is an easy excuse for reaping profits from unwise development or cutting costs by not including quake-resistant construction in new buildings.

Legislation now is making its way through both houses of the US Congress that would encourage states to shift their emphasis from disaster recovery to prevention and preparedness through better land-use planning and construction standards. The legislation deserves careful but speedy processing.

Defense-Civilian Weather Satellite Systems to Combine
By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The Clinton administration is combining the operations of the nation's two polar-orbiting weather satellite systems in an effort to increase efficiency and save money.

Plans to jointly operate the two polar environmental systems _ and to continue operation of the Landsat remote sensing program _ were being announced today by John Gibbons, the White House science and technology adviser.

White House officials said the move was part of Vice President Al Gore's "reinventing government" effort to streamline the operations of federal agencies.

Satellite systems operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Defense Department are expected to be merged over the next several years.

NOAA and the Defense Department each operate two polar-orbiting satellites.

Under the new plan the satellites will be operated as a single system with responsibilities divided among the Defense Department, NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NOAA would continue its independent operation of the GOES weather satellites that hover in place about 22,300 miles over the equator. Those are the satellites that provide the images often seen on television broadcasts.

Polar-orbiting satellites circle the Earth much more closely to get a better look at the planet, but they can't hover over one spot.

The NOAA polar-orbiting weather satellites circle the planet on a north-south route at an altitude of about 540 miles.

The turning of the Earth permits them to view the whole world twice a day, and having two in operation means data from any place on Earth are no more than six hours old.

Sensors on the NOAA satellites measure temperatures at the Earth's surface and in the lower atmosphere, observe clouds, monitor solar radiation and collect and relay information from environmental measuring systems such as remote weather stations and ocean buoys.

These satellites also relay signals from emergency transmitters carried on ships and aircraft as part of an international search and rescue system.

By international agreement, information collected by the NOAA satellites is shared with other countries for their weather forecasting.

Data collected by Defense Department satellites have not been as easily available to foreign users. The satellites operated by the Defense Meteorological Agency have somewhat different sensors and their orbit timing differs from the NOAA satellites.

While the two systems have been operated separately, they do cooperate.

Military agencies have often used data collected by the NOAA satellites, and during last summer's Midwestern flooding NOAA scientists developed a method of measuring ground wetness by using special sensors aboard the Defense Meteorological Agency satellites.

The Landsat satellites, also polar orbiting, provide Earth images used for mapping, agriculture, forestry, geological studies, urban planning and coastal management. A new Landsat 6 satellite that was supposed to go into orbit disappeared after launch last October.

AP-DS-05-10-94 0039EDT

LIVING SAFELY -- A HEALTHY CHOICE: NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK LAUNCHED

WASHINGTON, May 10 /PRNewswire/ -- You eat nutritionally, exercise, avoid fats and cholesterol, and read the new improved food labeling. Your ears are always tuned to the latest health and fitness news. But are you really living safely?

Thousands of Americans die each year from unintentional injuries and millions more are injured. Nearly 100 million -- or 1 in 3 -- Americans visit emergency departments annually. The good news is many emergencies can be prevented. Begin living safely this week during National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, May 15-21, a nationwide celebration to educate the public on injury prevention, safety awareness, and emergency preparedness.

"Making the commitment to practice injury prevention and live safely is one of the healthiest choices you can make," said John B. McCabe, M.D., FACEP, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the lead sponsor for National EMS Week. "National EMS Week is the perfect opportunity for individuals to learn to recognize and respond to medical emergencies," he added.

During National EMS Week, more than 30,000 hospitals and EMS agencies nationwide will conduct grassroots education programs and activities. Contact your state EMS office or your local EMS agency or hospital emergency department for activities in your area.

Dr. McCabe and the American College of Emergency Physicians suggest the following activities to recognize EMS Week and begin practicing safety awareness:

-- Learn how to recognize and respond to emergencies. Be sure everyone in your household is prepared for an emergency. To receive a free copy of "When to Call an Ambulance," send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: When to Call an Ambulance, ACEP, 900 17th St. N.W., Suite 1250, Washington, DC 20006.

-- Post emergency phone numbers by all phones.

-- Learn how to call for help. Nearly half the respondents in a national survey released last year could not clearly identify 9-1-1 as the national emergency medical number, often confusing it with the 4-1-1 information directory number. Approximately 25% of the country does not have access to the 9-1-1 emergency number. When traveling, always check the emergency number.

-- Be sure your house number is clearly visible from the street, so an ambulance or other emergency help can find you quickly and easily when needed.

-- Update items in your home first aid kit. For a list of items to include in your home first aid kit, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Home First Aid Kit, ACEP, 900 17th St. N.W., Suite 1250, Washington, DC 20006.

-- Check your smoke detector batteries.

-- Take a CPR class.

-- Wear a helmet. Whether you're riding a bike or playing sports, a helmet can protect you against head injuries.

-- Buckle-up. Always wear your shoulder and lap belt. Be sure to buckle children into approved safety seats.

National Emergency Medical Services Week is sponsored by the American College of Emergency Physicians along with the American Ambulance Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, the National Association of State EMS Directors, the National Council of State EMS Training Coordinators, the National Association of EMS Physicians, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration.

-

CONTACT: Jane Howell or Michele Kamber of the American College of Emergency Physicians, 202-728-0610

FEMA office lease raises questions

Price checks show better deals around

By LISA GETTER
Herald Staff Writer

Eighteen months after Hurricane Andrew tore through South Florida, the government declared another emergency: The Federal Emergency Management Agency needed to move out of its Miami offices to smaller space.

By designating it an emergency, FEMA was able to bypass lengthy bidding rules and find a new building within weeks. It was all in the name of saving money.

In February, the General Services Administration signed a two-year, $1.7 million lease on behalf of FEMA. The price: $17.73 a square foot for 48,136 square feet of space, a savings of tens of thousands of dollars a month.

Yet there are some indications the government could have done better.

A building across the street, for instance, leased space to its last tenant for $12 a square foot. That building is owned by the Resolution Trust Corp., a government agency.

And some tenants in the very building where FEMA finally settled are paying far less than FEMA — their rates range from $7 to $10 a square foot. Some, however, are subleasing.

The government contends it

FEMA's office lease saving money, but could agency have done better?

FEMA, FROM 1B

feel comfortable," said GSA spokesman Fleming James. "To spend six months negotiating a two-year lease didn't make much sense. Plus the lease we got out of is saving $1 million over the next two years."

Brokers contacted by GSA said the agency was in an unusual rush to close the deal. But FEMA, in an internal newsletter, said the move was in the works for nine months.

"Joe Jones from GSA called me. He said, 'Michael, I've got a weird one,'" said broker Michael Holmquist. "He said it would be a four-day turnaround."

Holmquist referred him to First Commercial Realty, which helped broker the deal. Delayne Sigerman, of First Commercial Realty, said GSA told her a bidding process would take too long.

"They wanted to do something quicker," she said.

Close ties

FEMA's new landlord, Doran Jason, has close ties to some of his new tenants. He owns the building with his former wife. His current wife is among the occupants. She works for a hurricane recovery program that is jointly funded by FEMA and the state of Florida.

"I kept far away from it," Pat Jason said of the lease. "I'm an operations manager."

Monte Garnette, the building manager for Jason, helped negotiate the He to work for the same hurricane recovery program as Pat Jason. She recommended that her husband hire him.

"I think they bent over backward to make sure there was no conflict," Garnette said. "If your question is, was my presence instrumental in us getting the lease, the answer is categorically no."

Politically popular

Jason, who ran unsuccessfully for the Metro Commission last year, is well known in Miami political circles. He is a former board member of the South Florida Water Management District, served five times as campaign treasurer for former Miami Mayor Xavier Suarez, and was a fund raiser for President Clinton in 1992 and for George Bush in 1988.

"They put out a request for proposals, and we responded to it," Jason said. "They looked at a number of buildings. They didn't just look at this building."

The building, the Doral Financial Plaza at 8600 Doral Blvd., is Jason's largest asset in what was once a significant real estate portfolio. He has liquidated most of his other properties to pay back creditors as part of a Chapter 11 reorganization. Each month, he pays $9,100 in back taxes on the building. "I'll continue to do that until it's paid," he said.

Jimmy Greene, one of the people who helped negotiate the lease for FEMA, of Garnette's buddies. They met soon after the hurricane. "He's a guy from Tennessee who likes to bass fish. I'm a guy from Alabama who likes to bass fish," Garnette explained.

'Very careful'

Greene said the Doran Jason property was the only one that met FEMA's needs. He said GSA handled all the details in making sure the government got a good deal.

"Jim Greene was a good friend of mine, still is," Garnette said. "We went through a time period there when Jim wouldn't even have lunch with me. We wouldn't discuss the lease. He was very careful. Everyone there was very careful."

Jason said the price is misleading because most commercial leases are usually computed by the number of square feet in the property, not how much is actually occupied. He said FEMA is really taking up about 60,000 square feet. But that still comes to a rate of $14.22 — more than what some other tenants in the building are paying.

As for the RTC property across the street, it wasn't available when GSA inquired about the space on Jan. 24 — 16 days before signing the lease with Jason. During that period, GSA phoned 14 Realtors about space.

"There's no indication that anyone else would have been included if there was a longer process," James . "There was preferent treatment. They were the low bidder."

The Star-Ledger Date: MAY 10 1994

Salem 1 expected to restart within a week

By ROBERT COHEN
Star-Ledger Washington Bureau P.14

ROCKVILLE, Md.—The troubled Salem 1 nuclear power plant in New Jersey should be able to restart within a week, federal regulators said yesterday.

Thomas Martin, a regional administrator for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), said the plant will come back on line after some reactor valves are replaced and experts are sure that this hardware is appropriate.

"Once they convince us of that, there is nothing else to prevent restart," said Martin following a public hearing before the NRC. "It is a fair assessment that the plant could restart by the end of this week or early next week."

This statement came as good news to Public Service Electric & Gas Co. (PSE&G), the operator of the Salem reactor.

E. James Ferland, chairman and chief executive officer of the New Jersey utility, said the company is "not trying to rush anything and won't start the plant until we do the technical analysis."

But Ferland said he believed the remaining equipment issue will be resolved quickly.

He added the utility has acknowledged its problems at Salem, thoroughly investigated the April 7 incident that led to the shutdown of the plant and undertaken a series of short- and long-range corrective steps.

Ferland said the hearing before three NRC commissioners showed "they feel we have acted responsibly."

(Photo by Mark Abraham)

E. James Ferland, chairman and chief executive officer of Public Service Electric & Gas Co., testifies before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning the troubled Salem 1 nuclear power plant

Last month, the 1,100-megawatt nuclear power generating plant went on emergency alert for some seven hours.

NRC inspectors have concluded that human error, compounded by escalating equipment problems, led operators to lose control over the nuclear reactor's pressure and temperature for about four of the seven hours the plant was in an emergency situation.

The South Jersey power plant was finally shut down without d[illegible] to the nuclear fuel. NRC officials there were "no abnormal releases of radiation to the environment" no injuries.

During the NRC meeting yesterday, commission staff both criticized and praised PSE&G officials, but emphasized they have been dealing with all of the key issues in a forthright manner.

The staff said the management allowed equipment problems to exist at Salem 1 that made operations [illegible]cult for plant operators. However, the NRC staff said the plant operators made good use of emergency procedures, and it credited PSE&G for its good internal investigations and troubleshooting activities.

In a presentation before the NRC, Ferland said PSE&G is committed to improving the performance at Salem 1. He said the company is "em[illegible]rassed" by the latest incident and determined to make changes.

Steven Miltenberger, PSE&G vice president and chief nuclear officer, said the company is aware that both the plant and the personnel are not meeting expectations.

He said a plan already put in place and updated since the incident last month involves retraining, changes in personnel, new procedures for handling the reactor and s[illegible]e modification of equipment.

PSE&G operates two other reactors at the Artificial Island Complex, which provides electricity to parts of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Salem 2 and Hope Creek are both in operation.

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY - REGION VIII
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS
Denver Federal Center, Building 710
Denver, Colorado 80225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 1994

MEDIA CONTACTS:
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Kurt Sonnenfeld (303) 239-0470 ext. 148

FEMA'S DENVER OFFICE NAMED CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS

DENVER, CO - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that its Region VIII headquarters in Denver will be the Center for Excellence in Community Relations. A steering committee, which includes both State and Federal government officials, has been formed to coordinate the creation of a national policy and training program to enhance the effectiveness of FEMA community relations programs.

"We're extremely proud to be named the Center for Excellence in Community Relations," said Mike Armstrong, Regional Director for FEMA. "In keeping with the push for the re-invention of government, one of our priorities this year is to develop new concepts and procedures for community relations in all phases of emergency management - preparedness, response and recovery, and mitigation."

Mike Reddy, of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, will provide state input. "Our goals are to come up with new policies and organizational relationships. Community relations is an integral part of the FEMA/State response in all presidentially-declared disasters and emergencies, and we want the teams to function at their highest levels," Reddy said.

In addition to providing information to disaster victims, community relations field workers serve as the eyes and ears of the disaster operation, referring any problems they become aware of back to the Disaster Field Office. Additionally, they identify community and organization leaders and build partnerships with them.

"Community relations workers are the personification of FEMA's motto, 'people helping people.' They are the human face of a disaster recovery operation. We want to be sure that they are customer-oriented, program-knowledgeable and are good communicators. Information is just as important to a disaster victim as food, water and financial assistance and we want to be sure that we are fully capable of delivering information to people in need," Armstrong said.

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NEWS RELEASE

Texas Division of Emergency Management
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Disaster Field Office
116 West University
Denton, Texas 76201
May 9, 1994

FEMA-1026-DR-TX-08
Contact: Jack Hutson, FEMA PIO
Caroline Guckian, State PIO
817-382-0350

LAMAR COUNTY ADDED TO DISASTER DECLARATION

Residents of Lamar County whose property was damaged as a result of severe storms occurring between April 25 and May 4, 1994, can now apply for state and federal disaster assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) added the county to the Presidential disaster declaration already in effect for Dallas and Cooke Counties as a result of the same storm system.

State and federal emergency management officials visited the community of Direct in Lamar County late last week to assess damages from a tornado that occurred April 26. Based upon their findings, FEMA determined that Lamar County suffered damage severe enough to warrant federal assistance.

Residents affected by the storms may apply for state and federal disaster assistance by calling 1-800-462-9029 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. each day. The hearing impaired may call the TDD number, 1-800-462-7585.

The types of assistance available include funds for temporary housing, long term, low interest loans from the Small Business Administration and Individual and Family Grants for serious disaster related needs. Also available is Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Tax Assistance, Social Security Benefits, Veterans' Benefits, Consumer Services, Legal Services, Aging Services and Crisis Counseling.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Texas Division of Emergency Management
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Disaster Field Office
116 West University
Denton, Texas 76201
May 7, 1994

FEMA-1026-DR-TX-07
Contact: Jack Hutson, FEMA PIO
Jo Schweikhard Moss, State PIO
817-382-0350

DAC HOURS OF OPERATION TO CHANGE

The hours of operation for the two Federal/State Disaster Application Centers (DAC's) now serving tornado victims in Lancaster and Gainesville are changing. Beginning Monday, May 9, 1994, an application for Federal/State disaster programs may be made from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice.

The centers, at 1061 Pleasant Run in Lancaster and the Civic Center, 311 South Weaver in Gainesville, will be open on Sunday, May 8, 1994 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We will continue to operate our two application centers in the devastated areas until such time that everyone in need of assistance is aware of our centers and has had an opportunity to file for help," said R. Dell Greer, Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"The purpose of the operation change is to allow the working people in the affected areas a continued opportunity to apply for disaster assistance programs at either center," added Ed Laundy, State Coordinating Officer (SCO) for the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

An application for disaster temporary housing, low-interest Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans, and possible state-administered Individual and Family Grants (IFG) may also be filed by telephone. The Disaster Teleregistration Center operates daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at **1-800-462-9029.**

Only one application need be filed for all disaster assistance programs funded by FEMA and the State of Texas. Those in need of assistance who have received help from the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army must file a separate application for Federal/State assistance programs.

# # # # #

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

(202) 646-4600

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-46

Release Date:
May 9, 1994

DISASTER FUNDS APPROVED FOR
NEBRASKA SNOW STORM RECOVERY

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton today approved federal disaster funds for Nebraska to help local governments recover from damage caused by a severe snow and ice storm that struck the central part of the state in early April.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which will coordinate the assistance, said the President's major disaster declaration directs the federal government to pay affected jurisdictions 75 percent of the approved costs for repairing storm-damaged public facilities. The remaining 25 percent is to be provided by the state and affected local governments.

Immediately after the declaration, Witt designated the counties of Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Lincoln, Phelps, Red Willow, Sherman, and Valley eligible for the cost-shared assistance. He indicated that federal requirements are being evaluated in other areas and additional designations may be made after the assessments are completed.

Warren M. Pugh, Jr., of FEMA's regional office in Kansas City, Mo., was named by Witt to coordinate the federal relief effort. Pugh said that procedures for requesting assistance will be explained at local applicant briefing to be held shortly in the designated recovery area.

-30-

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NEWS

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

(202) 646-4600

Media Contact:

Morrie Goodman

Release No.: 94-44

Release Date:
May 6, 1994

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS TO JULY 18

WASHINGTON -- The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that people in southern California victimized by the Northridge earthquake earlier this year will now have until Monday, July 18, 1994 to apply for federal assistance instead of the previous deadline of May 17.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt said he ordered the 60-day extension because of a continuing steady rate of new applications indicated that additional time was required to ensure that all eligible needs were being met.

"Our mission from the start was to do everything possible to help rebuild the lives of those devastated by this tragedy," Witt said. "By extending the registration period, we remain committed to making sure that each person and family gets every opportunity to do so."

Witt encouraged all people with earthquake losses who have not yet applied for federal disaster assistance to register as soon as possible by calling 1-800-462-9029 or visiting an earthquake service center established in the disaster area. FEMA registrars will be available to take phone applications from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (PDT) seven days a week until further notice.

Assistance available to individuals and families can include grants for housing and other serious disaster-related needs, as well as low-interest loans to help cover uninsured private and business property losses.

FEMA figures show that 547,842 quake victims had registered for federal assistance as of May 5.

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HURRICANE SUMMIT LOGS GAINS IN REDUCING LOSS RISKS

WASHINGTON -- Federal and state emergency managers have made significant strides in reducing risks that hurricanes may pose this year to the nation's coastal areas, the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said today at the conclusion of the Second Annual Hurricane Summit in Charleston, S.C.

"The summit went a long way toward further improving the nation's preparedness for these potentially devastating storms," FEMA Director James Lee Witt said. "We made a lot of progress during the past year."

The two-day summit, held May 5-6, was attended by emergency management directors for 22 hurricane-prone coastal states and territories, including Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas; Virginia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Witt said that the summit participants have made improvements in evacuation plans and forged stronger relationships among themselves through Memoranda of Understanding and interstate compacts.

"There continues to be a strong partnership between these states and territories and FEMA, as well as the other federal agencies involved in hurricane preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery," Witt said.

In support of the summit partnership, Witt noted that FEMA's budget for hurricane preparedness has increased from $280,000 a year in 1993 to more than $2 million this year, with the prospect for further increases that will approach $10 million annually.

Additionally, the agency is currently working with the scientific community to conduct studies of inland wind damage as a result of hurricanes, the FEMA Director pointed out. "We need to know much more than is known today about predicting the effects of hurricanes in inland areas," he said.

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