

DAILY CLIPS

Special Edition
The Los Angeles Earthquake

**NEWSPAPER CLIPS
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SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

JAN 31 1994

Quake aid fraud team sent to L.A.

Agencies to guard against scams, discrimination

P-I News Services *PAB*

LOS ANGELES -- Hundreds of federal and state investigators have been sent to Southern California to keep people from defrauding agencies that are helping earthquake victims, officials said yesterday.

The only serious problems so far have been in an emergency food stamp program in Los Angeles. Five people were arrested Saturday for investigation of trying to buy food stamps at a discount from legitimate recipients.

Investigators have been posted at all 18 relief centers to watch for alleged racial discrimination in emergency housing, said Joe Shuldiner, a spokesman for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HUD investigators also will ensure that landlords don't raise rents as they did in Florida after Hurricane Andrew.



The Associated Press

United Way volunteers take a break from helping tenants of a damaged Santa Monica apartment complex move their belongings.

About 800 federal and state inspectors were in the field, and a new toll-free number for reporting fraud was established.

Food stamp distribution was suspended for one day yesterday while officials worked to implement a new three-day waiting system.

Through Saturday, 112,783 food stamp applications were received. A total of 90,323 were approved for \$25.5 million, and 2,188 requests were denied.

The five people arrested for food stamp fraud, whose names were not released, were expected to be arraigned today in federal court. Authorities had previously said 10 people were arrested.

The Agriculture Department will seek a felony charge of possessing for unlawful sale more than \$100 in food stamps, said Dave Dickson, a USDA inspector general. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Meanwhile, earthquake victims were simply trying to settle down.

The last water-boiling orders had been lifted and city water service restored. Many restaurants served tap water for the first time since the Jan. 17 quake that killed 61 people.

The population in 32 refugee shelters was down from a peak of about 14,000.

In other developments yesterday:

■ More than two-thirds of California's hospital buildings don't comply with the latest safety standards and could fail in a major earthquake, according to a state report reviewed by The Associated Press.

The Hospital Seismic Safety Act, passed after 50 people died in the collapse of two

hospitals in the 1971 Sylmar quake, holds hospitals built after 1973 to stricter standards than other buildings. The report, compiled in 1990 by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, was based on a survey of 480 of the 588 facilities then operating in California.

■ As authorities investigated hundreds of complaints of price gouging, consumer activists fanned out to confront merchants who have been accused of cheating residents in the rush for supplies after the quake.

They were demanding that store owners sign agreements pledging to charge customers fairly or else face boycotts. People had reported paying up to \$10 for a gallon of milk.

■ Scientists working to unlock the secrets of the Northridge earthquake have concluded that its epicenter was actually in the hard-hit town of Reseda, several miles south of Northridge.

■ California Gov. Pete Wilson came out against raising taxes to pay for damages caused by the earthquake, breaking two weeks of silence on the financial question to say he preferred selling state bonds.

Speaking to reporters in Washington, D.C., Wilson insisted that taxes would only add to the recent series of economic and physical misfortunes that have battered California.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, who announced his candidacy Saturday for the Democratic nomination for governor, was quoted in newspaper interviews as accusing Wilson of "wimping out" for failing to ask for a tax increase.

THE NEW YORK TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 31, 1994

Clearing San Fernando Valley's Image

NYAT
By CALVIN SIMS

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30 — When most people think of the San Fernando Valley, they envision a white, middle-class suburb of Los Angeles with tree-lined streets, spacious homes and bratty teen-agers hanging out at the mall, using words like "rad" and "totally awesome."

But the earthquake and the politicians who descended on the ravaged valley helped to reveal a section of Los Angeles undergoing radical change in its racial and socioeconomic identity, while still gaining political clout.

"What we are witnessing here in the valley and elsewhere is the development of multicultural suburbia," said Councilman Joel Wachs, who represents the valley. "It's been happening for some time, but this city has had a perception problem of who we are, that is until the earthquake."

Rising Minority Presence

A recent study by the Graduate School of Urban Planning at the University of California at Los Angeles found a sharp decline in the percentage of whites living in the valley in the last decade, while the numbers of Asian and Hispanic residents have doubled since 1980. Today, whites represent 57 percent of the valley's population, down from 82 percent in 1980, and Hispanic residents a third. Asians account for 8 percent and blacks 4 percent.

The valley has continued to be stereotyped as a sterile, conservative enclave, perhaps because of its isolation from the rest of the city but most recently because of the vital role its voters played in the June election of Mayor Richard J. Riordan, the first Republican to hold the Los Angeles mayor's office in 30 years.

With their new found political muscle, voters like those in the valley have become crucial to both local and national politicians. Valley residents represent 40 percent of the Los Angeles electorate, and 71 percent of them voted for Mr. Riordan, who ran on an anti-crime platform. In return, Mr. Riordan has increased the number of valley representatives on city commissions and panels.

Recognizing the weight of valley voters, contenders in California's governor's race this year were quick to get involved after the Jan. 17 quake, was centered in the Northridge section of the valley.

Gov. Pete Wilson, a Republican, will face stiff competition in the general election from one of the two leading Democratic hopefuls, Kathleen Brown, the State Treasurer; or John Garamendi, the state's Insurance Commissioner. All three took a hands-on approach to the disaster, touring devastated areas, commiserating with victims and making proposals to raise money for repair work.

Diversity in a place known for its lack of it.

The Clinton Administration also acted quickly, speeding money to repair toppled highways and setting up disaster relief centers and tent cities. The Administration is also seeking \$5.6 billion in disaster relief from Congress. Political analysts also cited the symbolism of Mr. Clinton flying into Burbank Airport in the valley, instead of Los Angeles International Airport, when he visited areas damaged by the quake.

"It makes absolute sense for Clinton, Wilson and Riordan to be very concerned about how these voters perceive them," said Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a political analyst at the Claremont Graduate School. "The valley may have become less and less white, but the high propensity voters there are still the white middle class."

The valley is essentially a microcosm of what many political and social scientists here call "the two Californias." The first is predominately white, affluent, older and well-educated and votes. The second is minority, less educated, working class and younger and does not vote.

"Politically, the valley reflects the first California," Ms. Jeffe said. "These are the people who vote in high numbers and make decisions on funding services that the second California so vitally needs."

Located just beyond the mountain

range that runs through the center of Los Angeles, the valley comprises 268 square miles and contains 1.2 million people, or almost half of the land area of Los Angeles and over a third of the population. On its own, the valley would be the nation's sixth most populous city.

As much as it is a place, the valley is a state of mind. People of various racial and ethnical groups are attracted to the valley for the same reasons that whites have come there for decades: affordable single-family housing.

After World War II, veterans armed with G.I. loans and postwar hopes moved their families to North Hollywood, Van Nuys and other valley farming communities that were suddenly transformed into suburbanlike housing tracts. They were followed by hundreds of thousands of others who moved from older parts of Los Angeles and from around the country seeking more affordable housing.

But the valley is no longer a middle-class haven. The U.C.L.A. study found that 1 in 10 valley residents lives in poverty and that there is a shortage of affordable housing in the valley, once the main incentive for moving there.

"As much as the valley was made fun of, it was still the symbol of the best that Los Angeles had to offer in terms of a better quality of life — a way for working-class people to achieve the middle-class dream," said Jacquellne Leavitt, a professor at the Graduate School of Urban Planning at U.C.L.A. "Even though that mythology has been changing, much of what is happening in the valley should be seen as a precursor for what the new post-modern city is all about."

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THE NEW YORK TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 31, 1994

5 Accused in Scheme to Sell Victims' Food Stamps

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30 (AP) — Federal agents seized thousands of dollars worth of food stamps and cash and arrested five people suspected of trafficking in stamps intended for earthquake victims, Federal officials said today.

"We're still counting cash and still counting food stamps," Dave Dickson, regional inspector general of the Agriculture Department, said at a news conference on Saturday.

The arrests signaled the first major crackdown against traffickers tapping into an estimated \$100 million worth of additional food stamps to be issued this month in Los Angeles especially for quake victims, Mr. Dickson said.

Anti-Fraud Procedures

He said today that his department would seek a Federal felony charge of possessing for unlawful sale more than \$100 in food stamps. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

The agency earlier said it was suspending its earthquake emergency food stamp program for one day today to carry out its anti-fraud plans.

Officials on Friday began a new three-day waiting period to deter fraud. The program has distributed \$13.8 million in food vouchers to date to about 75,000 applicants.

Mr. Dickson said there had not been enough verification and cross-referencing in the emergency food-stamp distribution after the Jan. 17 quake. He said the new procedures would remedy that.

The arrests by undercover Federal agents occurred at a check-cashing company in South-Central Los Angeles. They followed a tip from the local police.

Mr. Dickson said people with wads of cash would park outside the stamp distribution point, in this case the check-cashing outlet, and would buy food stamps for cash from purported quake victims at a discount, often 50 percent.

They would then sell the stamps to a rogue food retailer who could obtain their full face value from the Government.

"People were being accosted outside the office," Mr. Dickson said. "There were those who wanted to take advantage of the situation."

Under food-stamp procedures prompted by the quake, recipients receive a card from an emergency center, then redeem the document for food stamps at an outlet. They can then use the stamps to buy groceries.

It is illegal to possess food stamps unless they are issued by an authorized outlet, and it is illegal to sell them.

Food stamp fraud comes under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Department, which oversees a \$23 billion national program. Normally, about \$200 million worth of food stamps flow through Los Angeles each month, but during January that amount is expected to reach \$300 million because of spiraling demands from quake victims.

A Red Cross spokesman, Randy Ackley, said the relief organization was also addressing abuse, cross-checking victim's addresses against a detailed map of the damage zone and in many cases sending inspectors to visit a victim's property before issuing aid.

"We feel very strongly about this," Mr. Ackley said. "This is donated money, and we want it spent properly."

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

JAN 31 1994

Wilson Against Quake-Related Tax Increase

He wants bonds, federal aid
to cover repair expenses

By Vlas Kershner
Chronicle Washington Bureau

Washington

Governor Wilson yesterday came out against raising taxes to pay for damages caused by the Northridge earthquake, breaking two weeks of silence on the financial question to say he prefers selling state bonds.

Speaking to reporters here, Wilson and his top fiscal adviser acknowledged that the state will face substantial quake-related expenses, regardless of how much aid the federal government provides.

But the governor — who will be in a difficult re-election campaign this year — insisted that taxes would only add to the recent series of economic and physical misfortunes that have battered California residents.

"I'm not eager to increase taxes for any purpose and certainly not for people who have suffered a devastating natural disaster," he

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said. "You don't want to tax people any more heavily than you absolutely have to in a recession."

He reiterated that the state has no idea yet what its costs will be, but said, "Whatever the exposure is, to the extent we are legally able to do it, I think that we should try to cover it by bonds."

Wilson's position could doom attempts by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and other Democrats to raise the state sales tax temporarily to help rebuild roads, schools and other public facilities damaged in the Northridge quake.

A 13-month, quarter-cent sales tax imposed after the Loma Prieta quake raised nearly \$800 million.

Any tax increase requires a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature — meaning Republicans as well as Democrats must vote for it. There appears to be little, if any, GOP support in Sacramento for a quake tax.

Wilson noted approvingly that even a liberal Democrat — Bill Lockyer, the incoming president pro tem of the state Senate — has said that bonds are preferable to taxes because of the poor economy.

The governor acknowledged, however, that the interest and principal on whatever bonds are sold would have to be repaid out of the state's general fund, which is already several billion dollars out of balance.

Wilson spoke to reporters at the start of the National Governors' Association conference.

The governor's crowded schedule during the next two days could give rise to a whole new meaning for the phrase "aggressive panhandling."

Wilson and six other governors will meet today with Leon Pa-

netta, Clinton's budget director, to press for federal reimbursement of the state costs of dealing with illegal immigrants. Wilson has based his new budget on receiving \$2.3 billion in immigration aid. Wilson won preliminary approval yesterday of a governors' resolution calling for the federal government to pay for the cost of illegal immigrants.

Wilson will discuss with other governors a plan to change the formula by which Medicaid costs are shared between the federal

**'You don't want to
tax people any more
heavily than you
absolutely have to in
a recession'**

— GOVERNOR PETE WILSON

government and the states, a shift that Wilson relies on for \$800 million in his budget.

He and Brown will meet with the congressional delegation tomorrow to plot strategy for receiving 100 percent federal reimbursement for certain quake-relief costs. The Clinton administration has promised 90 percent, with an initial commitment of \$7.5 billion.

In 1992, Florida's congressional delegation successfully lobbied for 100 percent federal reimbursement of public assistance costs resulting from hurricane damage in excess of \$10 per state resident.

South Carolina and Hawaii received similar windfalls, and Wilson said he wanted California to be treated "at least as fair as those other states."

A White House political aide said Wilson is being given every

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opportunity to talk about budget matters with Panetta and other Cabinet members.

The results should be known soon because Clinton's budget proposal will be released a week from today.

Russell Gould, director of the state Department of Finance, said in an interview that regardless of the success of the lobbying effort, the state faces large but unknown expenses related to the quake.

They include the costs of reimbursing counties for reduced property tax collections, lowered state income tax collections because businesses and individuals can deduct casualty losses, and at least some of the costs of repairing and improving roads and bridges.

Gould said the first state estimates on quake costs are due a week from today. The administration has pegged total damages at \$15 billion to \$30 billion, but that was based on computer modeling rather than physical inspection.

Wilson's stance on quake taxes puts him in opposition to Speaker Brown — who has proposed a one-half cent increase in the sales tax for one year to raise about \$1.4 billion — and with Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate who wants sales and gasoline taxes in addition to a special disaster assessment on property to pay for disaster recovery.

The third major Democratic gubernatorial candidate, state Treasurer Kathleen Brown, favors issuing bonds but has refused to take a position on taxes.

Asked by a radio reporter about the effect of the quake on his re-election campaign, Wilson put his arm on the man's shoulder and said, with mock solemnity, "I didn't even think about it before I produced the quake."

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**John
McCarron**

7/3

Next time, babe, get quake coverage

It was awful, that natural disaster that claimed more than 130 lives and cost Americans and their local governments billions of dollars.

No, not the Los Angeles earthquake. I'm talking about the 10 days of subzero weather that recently clawed the Midwest and Northeast.

The arctic blast claimed more than twice as many lives as the California quake, and after the last therm of gas, gallon of heating oil and towing bill is paid for, it likely will cost almost as much.

But that's OK.

We're used to cold snaps. We plan for them and pay extra to be prepared.

Sure it's a pain, wrestling with the storm windows, rotating the snow tires and writing three-figure checks to Peoples Energy or N-Gas.

It's the price we pay for living on the great midcontinental prairie. Especially here on the southern rim of the Great Lakes, where temperatures can fluctuate 130 degrees in a single year.

These thoughts came to mind the other day after shoveling the front walk for the umpteenth time since Christmas. I was thawing out in the kitchen, trying to straighten my spine, when I saw a TV report showing suntanned Los Angelenos waiting in a long line for food stamps and free Huggies.

Mind you, I don't begrudge federal aid to those in need, especially not the 25,000 whose homes were damaged and the 7,500 who lost it all. The earthquake was a great tragedy, and its victims deserve our help and sympathy.

But I couldn't help thinking, as I watched all those beautiful people in sunglasses line up for their federal loans and grants, that it may be time for Americans to take more responsibility for where they choose to live.

If I have to buy antifreeze and storm windows, why is it that only 25 percent of Californians buy earthquake insurance? It costs only \$300 a year, about what we'll spend to heat the house between now and St. Patrick's Day.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JAN 30 1994

Californians aren't the only ones who would rather not face up to the real cost of living where they do. The same goes for those on the hurricane-prone outer banks off the Carolinas and the sand spits off Florida. And for those here in the Midwest who choose to live in the Mississippi River's flood plain.

The Midwest flood is costing taxpayers about \$4 billion in federal loans and grants—a big number, but considerably less than the \$6.6 billion the White House is about to ask for the California quake. And that's just the initial cost estimate.

One could argue that the federal government would do the same for the Chicago area in the event of a disaster. But don't count on it.

Two years ago the South Side and south suburbs were hit with a torrential rain that flooded hundreds of homes and forced the city to spend \$6.7 million on repairs and relief services. Last month the Federal Emergency Management Agency sent a final rejection letter to Gov. Jim Edgar and Mayor Richard Daley stating the cleanup costs are "within state and local capabilities."

Actually, FEMA probably was right. The Chicago area was built on a series of lowland swamps and ridges. We shouldn't make a federal case every time our basements flood.

I've got to think, though, that Chicago's application might have fared better if Hegewisch, not Hollywood, were the media capital of the world. Or if Illinois, like California, had 20 percent of the electoral votes you need to become president.

Another thing that galls about paying for Southern California's troubles is that non-Californians have been footing that state's bills ever since the golden boom began after World War I. It cost billions in federal water, power and agricultural subsidies to reclaim those barren foothills of the Sierra Nevada from the Mojave Desert. All so 15 million people could leave places such as Chicago for the Los Angeles basin, where they could roar about in convertibles and call one another "babe."

But I'm getting petty.

It is true, however, that during much of the 1980s California, with its defense plants and research tanks, got back \$1.10 in federal expenditures for every \$1 it sent to Washington in taxes.

Illinois got 70 cents for every dollar.

So while it's in our nature to help those in distress, even those who left us behind for sunnier lives on the fault line, please accept this advice along with our money:

Next time, buy the insurance.

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1994-7-1

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

JAN 3 0 1994

Aid Pipeline Flows From Midwest To LA

Volunteers Recall Flood Relief, Pay Back In Kind

By Victor Volland
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

St. Louis-area relief agencies and volunteers are reversing the pipeline that brought out-of-state aid to flood victims here last summer.

A tractor-trailer load of donated food left the Salvation Army Carondelet Corps Center on Wednesday for earthquake-stricken Los Angeles.

Volunteer workers Jack Thuston and Bernie Ryder flew there Friday to meet the shipment and set up a meal station at a Methodist church in Santa Clarita, near the epicenter of the Jan. 17 earthquake.

Both men performed similar jobs in the floods here.

Maj. David Grindle, who directed the Salvation Army's relief for flood victims here, also flew Friday to Los Angeles to oversee distribution of food, clothing and social services in the tent cities the Salvation Army set up in parks in the hard-hit San Fernando Valley.

Grindle expects to work in California with his son and daughter-in-law, Matt and Pat Grindle. They are among the 50 cadets from the Salvation Army School for Officer Training in Chicago who are going to the quake area for on-the-job disaster experience. Other St. Louis area cadets making the trip include Robin Jones, Nicole Smith, Mark Bender, Kevin File and Samson and Jeanetta Van Slyke.

"This is our chance to pay back some of the help we got last summer," Grindle said. Los Angeles' Chinese community alone raised \$360,000 for Salvation Army flood relief here and elsewhere in the Midwest.

The St. Louis Bi-State Chapter of the American Red Cross last week shipped a truckload of office equipment to Los Angeles for the relief effort. Most of the 200 telephones, 12 copiers and 30 FAX machines, as well as calculators, typewriters and other equipment, had been used at various Red Cross flood relief stations here during the '93 flood.

Red Cross volunteers Slim Knight of St. Ann and Bill Hunt of Florissant drove the truck.

Volunteers Fred Meyer of St. Louis and Darlene Mitchell of Lake Saint Louis drove to Los Angeles last week in a Red Cross emergency van that did flood duty here last summer. They will ferry meals to displaced families.

Veteran Red Cross disaster volunteers Bill Washington of East St. Louis, Ben Osterberg of St. Louis and Tod and Betty West of Troy, Ill., have been serving meals to Angelenos made homeless by the earthquake or whose homes were cut off from electricity. The Red Cross has sent more than 4,600 trained volunteers to Los Angeles and served more than 350,000 meals to quake victims.

The Missouri Baptist Convention Center in Jefferson City last week reactivated the disaster-relief unit that helped in the summer floods here and dispatched to Los Angeles an 18-wheeler with a self-contained field kitchen.

Baptist volunteers Sharon Bell of St. Louis and Dennis and Jennie Quinn of St. Charles are part of the seven-person crew that has been preparing and serving hundreds of hot meals three times a day to quake victims.

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NEWS EXPRESS

Ideas & Trends

Big Disaster? Maybe It Is, But It's OUR Big Disaster

By ISABEL WILKERSON

AFTER the hurricane passes, the floodwaters recede, the ice melts or the earth stops quaking, an amazing thing seems to happen to people. Survivors who have lost everything and maybe even seen the face of death say they could not imagine living anywhere else.

Floridians say they would rather brave a hurricane than a winter in New York. Kansans say they'll take their chances on a tornado rather than see the ground open beneath them in an earthquake. Californians still edgy from aftershocks following the Jan. 17 earthquake say they would rather put up with the fires and mudslides and drought and quakes than shovel snow in Chicago.

What helps people make peace with these plagues is a kind of regional chauvinism that somehow rationalizes familiar dangers and magnifies others. It is a sense that the perils of one's own region are somehow safer than those of other parts of the country.

Of course, there is no "safe" disaster. From Hurricane Andrew to the deadly freeze and ice squalls still tormenting the Northeast, nature has been an equal opportunity oppressor. But people learn to live with hardships others could not dream of enduring. They make their own bets with nature. Mayor Bob Lanier of Houston says he cannot function in temperatures below 55 degrees. He cannot fathom northern winters. "I prefer a hurricane," he said. "You know they're coming, and you can leave."

"I prefer a tornado," said Jennifer Scott, an assistant restaurant manager in Chicago. "You can go in the basement and wait it out. With an earthquake, the basement becomes your grave."

What happens over time is that people become desensitized to the dangers of familiar phenomena, psychologists say. To justify their choices, people have to tell themselves that the advantages of a place outweigh the disadvantages, however terrifying they may be to outsiders, said Dr. Robert T. Carter, an associate professor of

psychology at Teachers College at Columbia University. "To say I live in a death trap, there is no way anyone is going to admit that," Dr. Carter said. "People want to believe that the things they choose to subject themselves to are worth it."

Clearly, where people settle has as much to do with jobs and family ties as anything else. But given people's mobility these days, fear of unfamiliar catastrophes or disdain for certain weather extremes plays some part in the equation. People in Minnesota, for example, choose brutally cold winters and the chance of tornados in spring over predictably balmy skies and the threat of earthquakes and mudslides in California.

Fear of earthquakes was enough for Linda Yanez, a justice on the United States Court of Appeals in Corpus Christi, Tex., to turn down job offers in California. "I begged them," she said. "If they would move the job someplace like San Antonio, I would take it. I can't live in a place where I'm worried about earthquakes."

She has survived two already. "One in Costa Rica and one in Utah," she said. "No thank you, never again."

Rather than be assured of subfreezing temperatures every winter or hurricanes every summer, people on the West Coast would rather gamble on a major earthquake every 15 or 20 years, or the somewhat rarer volcanic eruptions. The fatalists consider quakes just another

Earthquakes, snowstorms, high winds and floods all have their appeal (especially if they are happening someplace else).

part of life. "I could walk out the door and get hit by a bus," said Pamela Wegner, a Californian who grew up in the Northridge area, epicenter of the recent earthquake.

Tornadoes bring the cruel combination of unpredictability and frequency — about 800 a year, mostly in the nation's great midriff from Texas to the Dakotas. A tornado once picked up Patricia Glover, a Red Cross official in New Orleans, carried her 20 yards and dropped her unscathed in the Gulf of Mexico. She says she would take that over an earthquake. "Even in a tornado, you have a chance," Ms. Glover said. "You can jump in a

bathtub and pull a mattress over your head."

Others prefer the mundane certainty of harsh winters in which beards and car engines ice up rather than something more exotic and unpredictable. "Here you know there will be winter, you know it will be cold," said Shelly Regan, executive vice president of the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. "And you know that spring will come."

In oddly comforting ways, disasters and the survival rituals that precede them can become part of the defining mythology of a place. If you grew up with hurricanes, "you know to go to the grocery store to get bottled water, to fill the bathtub with tap water, to tape the windows and which route to take out of town," said Gay Sperling, president of a clothing and accessory business in New Orleans. "They're a part of my life. I can remember old people sitting on their rooftops. And after the hurricane goes, we celebrate. It's sort of like being in labor. When the hurricane goes, so does the pain."

Having seen just about the worst that can happen in the Midwest, Murla Leahy, a Kansas teacher who has lived through tornadoes and last summer's floods, refuses to worry now. "You continually have to think that things are good and that you'll come out of this and that you're going to be here tomorrow," she said. "Otherwise, why keep getting up in the morning?"



David Scott for The New York Times

If it's not one thing, it's another. People dug their cars out of the snow in Hoboken, N.J., last week,

RESEND HAS
BEEN REQUESTED

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

JAN 30 1994

Time to rethink freeways?

■ **Behind the news:** Some engineers say quake proves elevated structures too risky.

BY PETE CAREY
AND CHRISTOPHER H. SCHMITT
Mercury News Staff Writers

The long, sweeping connector ramps, cloverleaf interchanges and wide, squat viaducts that carry hundreds of thousands of vehicles a day help define the California landscape.

But in the wake of freeway failures in the devastating Northridge earthquake, some in the engineering community are saying it's time to rethink the notion that today's technology means that elevated highways can safely traverse any terrain.

Caltrans, the state transportation agency, and many seismic and engineering experts remain confident that new designs will withstand even violent quakes and that scores of old structures can successfully be strengthened.

But with every earthquake comes some freeway destruction, the promise of new and better retrofitting, followed by more unexpected freeway destruction. It all has some prominent engineers and politicians questioning whether long and looping stretches of elevated freeway — so commonplace in California — make sense and can be made impervious to quakes.

"We have to bring in the best and brightest — not people with a bias — to take a good, clean, fresh objective look at the kinds of facilities we're dependent on, and whether or not this is an outdated design, given the known seismic risks," said Assemblyman Rusty Arelas, D-San Jose.

See **FREEWAYS**, Page 8A

■ **After shock causes more road damage.** PAGE 3B

"I really question the value of building interchanges like that," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said at a congressional hearing last week, referring to the pretzel-like twists and turns of the damaged Interstate 5-Antelope Valley Freeway junction.

"Major spans, longer struc-

tures, with more complex geometries, multilevel overpasses, large sweeping curves ... need to be rethought," said Eric Elsesser, president of Forell-Elsesser Engineers Inc. in San Francisco and a member of then-Gov. George Deukmejian's board of inquiry following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

"The work that has been done in the past is probably not adequate," he said. Beyond simple strengthening, structures may need mechanisms to dissipate shocks and engineers may have to foresee how the ground beneath will move.

"I think we ought to pause a bit and reflect on what we're trying to accomplish," Elsesser said. "I know Caltrans thinks they've done that. I'm not pointing a finger at Caltrans. I think the profession needs to reflect — before too much more goes on."

Hallmark of freeways

Some engineers at Failure Analysis Associates, a Menlo Park firm that specializes in analyzing engineering and scientific failures, question the looping interchange structures that have been a hallmark of California freeway construction.

"I can admire some of it," said Piotr Moncarz, vice president of the structures group at Failure Analysis. "It looks so smooth and so on. But it just doesn't make sense to have enormous, massive structures so high in the air, requiring tremendous amounts of engineering effort."

Failure Analysis engineer Paul Johnston said he wouldn't completely eliminate the curvy, looped freeway structures, "but it seems we use them more than we need to."

Tunnels perform better than elevated structures in earthquakes, said Johnston, and Japan and Europe use tunnels more than the United States.

"Part of the argument for not doing it is that tunneling is generally more expensive," Johnston notes. "But ... is it really so expensive, given the performance we are getting from our elevated structures? We're saying it's something we ought to at more closely."

Surprises getting smaller

As one earthquake follows another, the surprises are getting smaller, says Filip C. Filippou, University of California, Berkeley engineering professor and a member of the university's Earthquake Engineering Research Center. "Unfortunately, the impression that we engineers have given to society is maybe that we have all the answers, and I don't think we do. ... To say right now we have a tool kit to fix every structure on the face of the earth would be awfully immodest."

"We really do not know what's coming," he said. "We are only extrapolating. Mother Nature has surprised us every time."

"Who knows what an 8 (in magnitude) in the San And will bring?" Filippou asked.

In an urban area, the land can be more expensive than the structures, said Jim Roberts, chief engineer for the state Department of Transportation.

"If you had unlimited land and money, you can spread an interchange out so you do each separation separately instead of having it all concentrated in one area, but you know, that's not reality. ... It takes a huge amount of

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land."

Roberts sharply disagreed with critics of looping, elevated interchanges.

"That's the same as saying you shouldn't do a tall building. The guys who are making these comments haven't seen the damage patterns."

A matter of engineering

In the Northridge quake, most structures that fell were one level above the street, Roberts says. "All the high looping interchanges are functioning that had been retrofitted. The Antelope freeway into (Interstate) 5, is a high looping one, but what went down is a short stubby end piece. It's a matter of engineering."

But sweeping elevated structures aren't the only ones of concern. Current design standards may not provide enough strength for shorter bridges with short, multiple-column structures that sit on or near soft soils, said former UC-Berkeley researcher Eduardo Miranda.

In essence, ground movement around such structures will be slower than the structures themselves move when hit by earthquake forces, said Miranda, now a researcher for the National Center for Disaster Prevention in Mexico City. That sets up stresses that can require a structure to have additional strength if it's to survive without major damage.

But many engineers see no reason to stop using today's designs.

"Nothing is guaranteed in life. I believe it's OK (to be building what is being built)," said Jack P. Moehle, a UC-Berkeley engineering professor and director of the campus's Earthquake Engineering Research Center.

"People want to use their resources on something other than building bunkers for every structure," said Paul C. Jennings, vice president of the California Institute of Technology and a member of Deukmejian's inquiry board. "We don't design everything for the strongest wind we've ever encountered. It might be conceivably possible to do so, but you wouldn't have any low-cost housing."

But others say it's time to re-evaluate basics like materials and designs.

Consider other materials

"You have an awful lot of weight you're putting up there, and it's hard to brace, especially when you want it to look good."

said Loring A. Wyllie Jr., chairman of H.J. Degenkolb Associates in San Francisco. "If they're going to continue to build those structures, they should consider other materials, like structural steel."

Steel structures, commonly used in Japan, are lighter and more flexible, he said. Caltrans, in its current design approach, uses a stiff, brittle material — concrete — and then tries to make it more like steel by adding steel reinforcements, he said.

While not ready to say Caltrans should stop building such structures, the agency "needs to become a bit more imaginative than just keep doing the same thing," he said.

And even the best engineering reassurances may only be as good as the next quake.

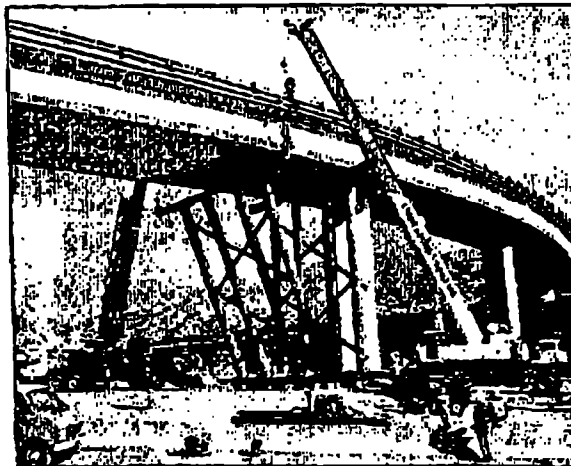
"Most structural engineers think they can design a pretty good factor of safety to keep (elevated structures) up there," said Tom Larimers, manager of highway projects for Bechtel Corp. "But if one is crossing the San Andreas Fault, I wouldn't want to bet my money on it."



'I think the profession needs to reflect.'

— Eric Elaeiser

Students, instructors use computers in bridge stress test at UC-San Diego.



Associated Press

Pipe columns are pulled into place to stabilize damaged Interstate 5 interchange in Santa Clarita.

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Earthquake Deductions Have Limits

Q My home was severely damaged in the recent earthquake and I do not carry earthquake insurance. Friends are talking about something called an "involuntary conversion" and say I may be able to claim a tax deduction for my losses. Can you explain all this?
--C.C.K.

A Casualty losses, even on a personal residence, are tax deductible up to the amount of your tax basis in the house minus both \$100 and 10% of your adjusted gross income. Be very clear about these regulations. Your deductible loss is limited to either your adjusted tax basis or your actual loss, whichever is lower, not your home's assessed or market value which could be substantially higher than your tax basis depending on when you purchased the home and whether you rolled over untaxed profits from a previous home.

Here's how it works: Let's say, using very round numbers, that your tax basis in your home is \$100,000 and your adjusted gross income is \$100,000. Under the Internal Revenue Service guidelines, you would be limited to a maximum casualty tax deduction of \$89,900. Here's how you would figure it: \$100,000 tax basis, minus \$100, minus \$10,000 (10% of your adjusted gross income). It doesn't matter whether your house is worth \$250,000 and will need \$150,000 worth of repairs to be habitable again. Your deductible losses are limited as described in the above calculation. However, any money you spend beyond the amount of your deduction increases your tax basis in the house and will reduce your potential taxable gain when you sell it.

In addition, once an area has been officially designated a federal disaster area, you have the option of claiming your casualty loss on the current year's tax return or the previous year's tax return.

This choice allows you to get a tax refund from the prior year's tax return processed immediately, giving you some much needed cash. It also allows you to pick the year in which your income was lower, making you eligible for the largest possible casualty loss deduction. For example, if your adjusted gross income last year was \$80,000, you

would reduce your casualty deduction by \$8,000 plus \$100, giving you a potential maximum of \$91,900. (\$100,000, minus \$100, minus \$8,000.)

But, be careful, a casualty loss claim can trigger a tax audit. So keep receipts, photographs and other appropriate documentation to substantiate your claim. When your loss exceeds your income for the year in which you claim it, you may carry forward to the next year, or back up to three years, the remaining unrecognized loss. But the total of your deductions is still limited to the amount of your tax basis in the home.

An involuntary conversion is an entirely different matter and concerns only taxpayers who receive an insurance settlement or some other sort of compensation for their property losses. IRS rules governing these procedures allow taxpayers up to two years to use the proceeds from their compensation to replace their lost property. The clock on the two-year limit begins running after the close of the tax year in which the involuntary conversion occurred. For taxpayers affected by the earthquake, for example, the replacement clock begins ticking Jan. 1, 1995 and expires Dec. 31, 1997.

Interest From Family Goes on Schedule B

Q How do I report the interest I receive from a loan I made a family member for a down payment on a home? --B.S.

A You should include it with any other interest income you receive on Schedule B, Part I on your tax return.

Calendar Year Key to IRA Withdrawals

Q As of which date do I calculate the value of my individual retirement accounts in determining my annual mandatory withdrawal? Also, how do I determine what my age is when I make the withdrawal? Do I use my actual age at the time of the withdrawal or my age as of the end of the calendar year? --G.J.N.

A The amount of your mandatory distribution should be

based on the value of your IRA accounts as of Jan. 1 of the year in which the withdrawal is to be made. You should use your age as of Dec. 31, of the year in which you make the withdrawal, not your age on the actual date the money is distributed.

Inherited Bond Interest Probably Subject to Tax

Q When my sister died, I inherited some U.S. Savings Bonds on which interest accumulated untaxed. If I cash them in now, what is my tax liability? Is it the amount of interest the bonds have generated from the time I inherit them until I cash them in, or the interest generated from the date of their purchase? --D.J.M.

A If no taxes have ever been paid on the accumulated interest, then you are liable for taxes on all the interest the bonds have generated. Be careful, however, to check whether your sister's estate reported that interest on her final income tax return. In some cases, it can make sense for an estate to report accumulated and unrecognized interest on the decedent's final return.

Why? When the decedent has little or no income for the year in which he or she dies, income—up to certain limits, of course—can be reported and still not be subject to taxes because it doesn't meet the tax threshold. Perhaps this happened in your sister's case; you should at least check.

If it did, then you would only be liable for taxes on the interest the bonds have generated since you have held them.

If your sister's final tax return did not include the bond interest, you are liable for taxes on the whole amount.

However, for the future you should remember to use a decedent's final tax return to its fullest advantage.

Carla Lazzareschi cannot answer mail individually but will respond in this column to financial questions of general interest. Please do not telephone. Write to Money Talk, Business Section, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

JAN 30 1994

Packard Bell Changes Were in the Works

The Jan. 22 story on Packard Bell's layoff of workers omits several critical facts ("Packard Bell Plans to Lay Off Some Workers at Chatsworth Center").

Packard Bell had notified all of our service and support employees last October that we were seeking a new site for the department. On Jan. 10, we informed them of the company's decision to move service and support to Utah and asked them to accept or decline an invitation to relocate. Only 30 to 35 workers, or 7% of our technical support employees, were not offered a chance to relocate, based on unsatisfactory performance reviews.

We were all impacted by the Los Angeles earthquake Jan. 17. Packard Bell's technical support building was destroyed along with our corporate headquarters. We were forced to move to a new site and accelerate the opening of our Utah technical support facility.

Packard Bell is very concerned about all of our employees. We are offering psychological counseling to any employee who suffered in the quake. We are also offering assistance to anyone who sustained personal losses.

Sadly, the earthquake brought personal devastation for thousands

Legislator Takes Aim at Post-Quake Pirates

Kudos to the Dallas-based Southland Corp. for terminating franchise agreements with eight 7-Eleven stores charged with price-gouging in the wake of the Northridge earthquake ("7-Eleven Cutting Franchises Over Price Gouging," Jan. 22).

I'm delighted that Southland has demonstrated that corporate responsibility and integrity are as

important as corporate profits.

In addition, those contractors, plumbers, electricians and other business people who came through in the clutch—and charged their regular prices—also deserve our applause.

As for those price-gouging contractors who are seeing dollar signs, not devastation, in the wake of the tragic earthquake, they're another matter entirely. I hope the state Legislature will follow the example set by Southland Corp. and take swift action to ban price gouging throughout California whenever a state of emergency is declared. In addition, I plan to introduce legislation to require the state Contractors' Licensing Board to immediately revoke the license of any opportunistic contractor convicted of violating any state or local price-gouging law.

Assemblywoman DEBORA BOWEN
(D-Torrance, Marina del Rey)

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The Next Terror: Challenge of Rebuilding

By Kevin Starr

First came the terror of the earthquake. Now come questions that hold a terror of their own. How will Los Angeles and its surrounding communities survive the disruption to its one abiding necessity—mobility? Can strategies to supplement the broken lifelines be devised? More subtly, but of equal importance, can the civility and good behavior of the immediate post-quake days be prolonged?

Irony of ironies, the Northridge earthquake temporarily restored to the region, the city of Los Angeles especially, its lost reputation. For nearly two years, the outside world has been judging Los Angeles by the riots. Here, critics contended, was

Kevin Starr, professor of planning and development at USC and faculty member of the USC Embassy Residential College, is writing his next volume on the history of California, "The Dream Endures: California Through the Great Depression," to be published by Oxford University Press.

proof positive of the pervasive social instability of the city, and much of the county, of Los Angeles. Yet, in the wake of the earthquake, there were no riots; looting was negligible. The citizens of the region—of necessity!—repossessed the public places they had long since abandoned to the bad guys.

Yet, news reports of possible widespread fraud in the emergency food-stamp program take some of the bloom off the rose of social cooperation and good behavior in the post-earthquake era. Dangerously, the food-stamp fraud offers an opportunity for immigrant-bashers who might want to suggest that all immigrants, even the undocumented, come from the criminal underclass, which is not the case. In the matter of showcasing social behavior, the earthquake giveth; the earthquake taketh away. In this instance, the earthquake has brought further to light the persistent presence of a growing underclass in the Southland.

Still, it is not boosterism to note—hence to praise—the performance of front-line public servants, the rank and file of city and county govern-

Please see REBUILDING, M2

ment, in the aftermath of the disaster. Nor is it naive to note that District Seven of Caltrans, the most challenged of all governmental agencies, revealed (perhaps for the first and last time) its humanity, as well as its bureaucratic clout, when a succession of its engineers jerry-rigged a transportation IV to the traumatized body of the region.

But now comes the hard part. Now comes the long-range, and perhaps most real, challenge. Now comes the slow recovery, with all its demands on personal and communal patience. Now comes the effort to maintain the high ground, the momentarily achieved sense of common identity and purpose.

The responses to some quake-created challenges, while expensive, are self-evident. The partial collapse and subsequent demolition of the Barrington Building on Olympic Boulevard, with the loss of countless, sensitive medical records, and damage to the Hall of Justice, which rendered its data system, from fingerprinting to criminal histories, temporarily useless, underscore the fact that the region can no longer afford to maintain its databases in one place.

And how do we face up to the limits of our highway engineering technology? Should we, for the third time, spend tens of millions of dollars on overpasses that must inevitably collapse? The region now has a window of opportunity to diversify its transportation options. But will government have the good sense to ease restrictions on shuttle vans, allowing them to function as para-transit jitneys on declared routes? Or will it continue to protect the public-transit monopoly?

How can we replace some 20,000-plus units of housing stock? How can banks be expected to refinance multiunit apartment complexes that, under current construction codes and costs, can never be made affordable to the population that was displaced by the quake? Will some public-private mode of refinance be achieved, thus putting Southern California on the cutting edge of housing economics? Or will only the affluent be able to regain lost housing, with the rest lingering on in tents or drifting into Third World-style shanty towns in exurban arroyos and culverts?

Comparisons have been made to the rebuilding and improvement of Athens following the Persian invasion of 479-480 BC, or the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666, or the recovery of Atlanta after Sherman's march to the sea, or the reconstruction of Chicago after the great fire of 1871, or to the rebuilding of

San Francisco following the earthquake and fire of April, 1906. In one sense, such comparisons are perhaps too grand. Metropolitan Los Angeles was not brought to the ground as were these other cities.

Yet, in another sense, such comparisons are warranted, at least in American terms. The Northridge earthquake, at an estimated \$30 billion in damages, represents the single most costly catastrophe in U.S. history. Athens, London, Atlanta, Chicago and San Francisco had years to rebuild, although San Francisco did it in slightly more than three. Metropolitan Los Angeles, by contrast, feels the necessity of recovering immediately, lest it lose its economic momentum, lest it gain a negative reputation in investment circles.

The \$6.6 billion federal-aid package will cover a mere 20% of the estimated quake-related damage. Intra-regional and interagency competition for scarce funds can be expected to be fierce. In this spatially and sociologically segregated region, scarcity of funds is too often automatically translated into interethnic competition, which directly wars against that momentary sense of unity (already threatening to reveal itself as an illusion) the Northridge quake ushered in.

The rebuilding task is enormous, perhaps impossible of realization. It may be a year or two or even more before things get back to normal, before metropolitan Los Angeles can be truly said to have regained the social and economic momentum it was showing before the quake.

But, then again, the British historian Arnold Toynbee has argued that near-impossible challenges put cultures and societies in connection with their best possibilities. In crisis, notes Toynbee, comes the challenge, and from the challenge comes the response.

Significantly, as Toynbee tells us, it is those very values momentarily recovered by metropolitan Los Angeles in the earthquake—shared identity, moral community, a sense of hope and the common good, the distinctive renewal that comes from struggling against adverse fate—that are most relevant to the recovery or collapse of past societies.

Will historians of a future era see in the behavior of metropolitan Los Angeles after the Northridge earthquake—see in the social programs, economic and entrepreneurial strategies, traffic and engineering solutions—a creative response to the challenge of the quake and the social problems it underscored? Or will something less than this be achieved: not enough to eliminate the region entirely (that is impossible) but certainly enough to have it lose its luster, to fall short of that dream of a better life that has filled Southern California with hard-working, aspiring people from every corner of the globe? □

About Two Weeks Later . . . MY

Times Poll on Northridge quake contains silver linings, disturbing findings

What a two weeks it has been.

And what an extraordinary next few months it no doubt will be.

Spare us the excitement, right? For—once again—the millions who live here are being severely tested, this time by the biggest earthquake in our modern history.

Sure, we'll pass the test. We're resilient, determined, committed, all of that. Look at the amazing results of the Los Angeles Times Poll taken last weekend. It revealed that only 3% of poll respondents—and only 4% in the most heavily damaged areas—say they will pick up and get out.

So we're staying, we're digging in, we're fighting back.

That we know.

What we don't know is whether we'll be better or worse for all the trauma.

No less than 54% of respondents said they were suffering psychologically as a result of the 6.6-point quake that occurred early Jan. 17. Indeed, one in four said the Northridge earthquake was one of the worst experiences of their



Picking up the pieces.

lives. Sounds reasonable to us.

What did seem a lot less sensible was that 83% of those commuting alone said they would continue to do so. It takes some kind of zany optimist to find a silver lining in an earthquake, but our hope has been that the commuting nightmare that we have all awakened to would force many of us into doing what we

should have been doing all along. Start a car pool, take a bus, ride a train.

Our guess is that a few more weeks of the post-quake commuting ordeal will chip away at that 83% figure. We'll see.

And no one really knows how much children will be affected by the trauma. Endless psychologists—pop and otherwise—will no doubt speculate. But only the attentive parent will be able to tell. It did seem to us that local school officials moved as quickly as humanly possible to get the schools up to speed. That was a relief to the kids, not to mention their parents.

Another silver lining—can you hear us whistling?—is that the experience of this powerful quake will motivate us all to take the whole business of earthquake preparedness a lot more seriously. Disturbingly, 53% of poll respondents did not consider themselves well-prepared for a quake. We've got to change.

So, as you go to bed tonight, ask yourself this question: Do you know where your flashlights are?

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A Mayor in Sneakers: Right Leader for a City Reeling from Disaster

■ **Quake:** Riordan has been touching, holding and reassuring the people. Will his ability to get things done become the basis for a vision?

By Xandra Kayden

Great tragedy frequently spawns great leadership. But though Los Angeles is recovering from the Northridge earthquake, it is not because the mayor has burst forth as a knight in shining armor to lead us through the dust of the trembling earth. Rather, we have had a mayor in sneakers, turning up at one disaster site after another, day after day, to touch, hold and reassure shaken children and adults.

For Richard Riordan, the quake and its aftermath have provided an extraordinary opportunity to learn what works and what doesn't work in city government. They may even help him craft a vision for the city, something he has, so far, not been able to do.

Admittedly, it is difficult to assess Riordan's leadership by more conventional standards. The mayor is not entirely responsible for the functioning of the

Xandra Kayden, a visiting scholar at the Center for Politics and Economics at the Claremont Colleges, is the author of "Surviving Power" (Free Press).

Fire Department or the Department of Water and Power, or all the city agencies that have risen to this extraordinary occasion. Still, Riordan has been quite effective in getting to work on the tasks at hand—tasks that are clear and whose goals are shared by all. His political power is growing by leaps and bounds.

But is he evolving into a more effective leader in a city whose preference for a weak mayor is written into law?

Last year, CORO, the national leadership training program, asked two groups of people living in Southern California to define leadership. One group was composed of neighborhood residents, the other of leaders. Each drew up a list of 10 qualities associated with leadership that they valued most.

On six qualities—good listener, vision, respect for others, risk-taker, integrity and the ability to delegate—the two groups concurred. The neighborhood groups also valued leaders who are open-minded, compassionate, self-confident and good communicators, all facets of character, except for the last quality. The leaders valued the ability to motivate, to get things done, charisma and the ability to inspire—qualities that emphasize links with others.

One of the more interesting findings was that the farther leaders get from their communities—the more successful they are in climbing the ladder of power—the weaker their relationships to their constituents are perceived to become. Doubts about them creep in—partly because of the perceived increase in



BARBARA CUMMINGS / for The Times

political distance, partly because the higher the office, the more vulnerable the officeholder is to media scrutiny. Television strips away that quality of charisma that enables us to believe that someone else is better, smarter, more blessed than the rest of us.

Yet, in the aftermath of the worst quake in modern L.A. history, television seems to have brought Riordan closer to us, closing the distance—and thus the trust gap—between him and us. In terms of the CORO study, Riordan has been seen in the neighborhood, listening, then

calling on his car phone to give orders. This, more than anything else, may account for his high approval ratings in the weeks since the quake struck.

A modern, urbane society, we may come to recognize, is not run by one knight but thousands of knights, some on horseback, some on mules, some just walking their blocks.

We have a vision of a Los Angeles that works: traffic moving on the freeways, homes rebuilt, safety and security from the elements and each other, a recovered economy.

Riordan is doing an extraordinary job in helping make those things happen, and while words and sentences are not his strong suit, he does convey a sense of purpose and ability. When he stumbles over the words, well, maybe his lack of slickness makes him more like us, closer to home, someone to be trusted.

People want leaders to be close to them—to listen to them, to be connected to them, to assure them. It's hard to do that in an urban setting, which may be why leaders place more stress on communication.

The earthquake brought the mayor out into his city, back to the people. We have watched him assume responsibility, take risks and try to get things done. That is leadership by any measure, and those traits are among Riordan's greatest strengths.

Learning what works and what doesn't may enable Riordan to see a better vision, and that will be the measure of greatness—if he can bring us along with him. □

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A Few Aftershocks From the Other Side of the Pacific

PACIFIC PARAMETERS

M2

A sampling of commentary from around the Pacific Rim.

■ **Philippines** "I couldn't help wondering if Americans, or even Filipino Americans, were as riveted to their TV screens when Mt. Pinatubo erupted, or when the devastating *lahar* [volcanic mudslide] swept across Central Luzon, or even when the 1991 Luzon earthquake shook

entire cities to rubble. While satellite communications have indeed drawn the world . . . round the campfire, it seems it is still the rich and the powerful who decide what stories to tell, or to tell first, or to tell best."

—*Rina Jimenez-David in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, after watching live TV reports of the Northridge earthquake.*

■ **Australia** "Most Angelinos will shake off the dust and get on with life. Their day of reckoning has not yet come."

—*Sydney Morning Herald, citing risk calculations for life "on the fault line."*

■ **New Zealand** "New Zealand can learn

from the tragic experience of Los Angeles . . . Earthquake planning must be on the basis of making the best preparations to deal with the worst situation."

—*Bay of Plenty Times, Rotorua, noting that New Zealand also awaits a "Big One."*

"There are those in America today who are arguing that Lorena Bobbitt's revenge is just retribution for male violence. Perhaps the front lines of this particular battle of the sexes are closer to home than we realize. A recent series of programs on National Radio on violence against women ended with one woman contributor suggesting that the only solu-

tion was an injection for men that would subdue their testosterone and prevent them from mating until they had proved themselves sufficiently trustworthy."

—*The Nelson Evening Mail, also saluting "the spirit of capitalism" outside the Manassas courthouse, where chocolate replicas of the Bobbitt knife and organ were on sale.*

■ **Taiwan** "The U.S. should encourage the moderates and liberals in Beijing to resolve the remaining human-rights issues, rather than brandish the secret weapon of most-favored-nation status at every turn."

—*Editorial in the China Times.*

■ **Hong Kong** "The U.S. must also bear some blame for the problems of its trade relationship with China. China's evasion of the quota limits, and the ensuing battle, are the result of the U.S. system of trade protection."

—*South China Morning Post, editorializing that MFN won't be renewed "as a result of threats of retaliation or the release of a few token dissidents."*

■ **Thailand** "Former U.S. President George Bush described himself as an 'unemployed retired American.' But what he did not mention was how much Thai spent for this 'jobless' senior American citizen to visit the country."

—*The Nation, Bangkok, observing that it cost Thai sponsors \$400,000 for the Bush stopover Jan. 19-21.*

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County Extends State of Emergency to Cut Red Tape

■ **Supervisors: Sheriff Block seeks permission to lease space for workers displaced by closure of Hall of Justice.**

By ERIC MALNIC
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Friday declared a continued state of emergency—an administrative move that will give county officials wider authority to purchase supplies, make repairs and lease office space for employees displaced by the earthquake.

About two dozen county structures—among them the aging Downtown Hall of Justice—remain closed because of earthquake damage, and scores of employees have been forced to double up at a time when demand for their services is at a record high.

Sheriff Sherman Block made a personal appeal for permission to lease space for the last 575 department personnel housed in the Hall of Justice, which served for years as the sheriff's headquarters. The Sheriff's Department is now headquartered in Monterey Park.

Block said that because many of

the department's computerized records and identification systems are locked up in the landmark building at Temple and Spring streets, "sex and narcotics offenders are not being registered, fingerprints are not being logged and . . . a whole range of law enforcement procedures are not getting done."

The supervisors agreed to provide temporary space for Block's personnel but postponed a decision on finding a permanent location for them.

The workers had been scheduled to move out of the Hall of Justice at the end of the year, but earthquake damage has speeded up the process.

Officials estimate that it would cost about \$80 million to refurbish the 69-year-old building, which once housed such famous prisoners as Charles Manson in the jail that occupies the top floors. Some have suggested that it would be better to simply tear down the old building.

In other developments Friday:

■ Authorities took steps to quash a variety of scams that have sprung up in the aftermath of the Jan. 17 Northridge earthquake.

The Los Angeles Police Department's bunco division assembled a unit to investigate quake-related fraud, federal investigators were sent to welfare offices to look for

TimesLink Help

TimesLink provides helpful earthquake-related information 24 hours a day. From the 213-310-7111 or 213-310-7112, call 213-310-7112 or 213-310-7113, then press the (exterior) key, and a four-digit security code. TimesLink is a free service of The Times.

For general freeway closures and alternate routes, press 213-310-7112. For phone numbers of earthquake-related organizations, press 213-310-7113. For a list of local seismologists, press 213-310-7114. For earthquake info, press 213-310-7115.

phony claims for emergency food stamps and state agents started posing as homeowners to catch contractors overcharging for earthquake repairs.

In an effort to stop "double-dipping," the federal Department of Agriculture approved a 72-hour waiting period for those applying for a one-time allocation of emergency food stamps. Previously, applicants had only to give proof of residence and declare that they met

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low-income requirements in order to receive the stamps immediately.

"It's not our intent to hassle people who need food," said Dick Montoya of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. "But a few people are going to cheat, and we're trying to strike a balance."

• A moderate, magnitude-4.0 aftershock centered three miles east-southeast of Newhall was felt over a wide area at 12:09 p.m., followed three minutes later by a 3.5 tremor and by another 3.0 tremor at 4:47 p.m., Caltech reported.

The first quake was the 37th aftershock recorded in the magnitude 4 range in the 12 days since the initial 6.6 quake. There have been two aftershocks in the magnitude 5 range and more than 300 in the 3 range.

• Donna E. Shahala, secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, said in Los Angeles on Friday that she is releasing \$17.5 million for repairs and supplemental funding for medical and research centers, Social Security offices, health and family planning clinics, Head Start centers and substance abuse treatment facilities in the earthquake area.

• Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said more than 179,000 people had applied for federal assistance. They said

checks for temporary housing totaling about \$17.7 million had been mailed out.

• Gov. Pete Wilson announced a \$3-million program to hire people who lost their jobs because of the quake to do cleanup work. The jobs will pay \$2,000 a month.

• City officials said 28,557 buildings had been inspected since the earthquake, with 21,095 dwelling units declared unfit for occupancy.

• The state Office of Emergency Services said more than 3,000 earthquake refugees remained in Red Cross shelters and tent encampments. Another 1,300 were camping on their own, most of them in city parks, the state said.

• Meningitis, not his living conditions, apparently caused the death of a 13-month-old boy who had been living with his family in a car outside their Newhall home because of fear of another major earthquake, sheriff's deputies said. Jose Campa's temperature rose to 107 degrees before he died Wednesday morning.

• The Lincy Foundation, a Las Vegas-based, nonprofit organization funded by financier Kirk Kerkorian, announced that it has donated \$2 million to the Red Cross to be used to aid victims of the earthquake. The foundation made a similar grant to the Red Cross in 1992 to help victims of the riots.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

JAN 29 1994

Many Elderly Quake Victims Still Displaced

By Rob Hammer
Chronicle Staff Writer

After lifelong struggles with hard times some find that everything they had is gone

Granada Hills, Los Angeles County
Displaced and dispossessed, many elderly victims of the Northridge quake were already living on the brink when calamity shoved them into an abyss.

Those who remain in Red Cross shelters nearly two weeks after the earthquake are, for the most part, without family or friends to help them through the second rude awakening: recovery.

Self-sufficient and proud of it, they are quietly appalled at what has happened to them. Despite often living with adversity, they never imagined they would become homeless.

"Is there such a thing as envying the dead?" asked Myra Latsky, a gamine-like figure who offered her age as "sweet 16" as she sat on her cot in the Red Cross shelter in the gymnasium of Granada Hills High School. Piled around her in

plastic bags were the few belongings she was able to salvage when the trailer she was buying on time collapsed on its foundations at the Northridge Mobile Home Park.

Like the very young, the elderly are most vulnerable to disasters, say those who work in the recovery effort.

"Both are somewhat powerless in the sense that they can't get around by themselves and they can't take advantage of the services as (younger) adults can," said Rosemary S. White, a clinical psychologist from Studio City who is helping to counsel victims as part of a Red Cross volunteer disaster-response team.

Latsky, a New Englander with the touch of a Boston accent, moved to Southern California 23 years ago to start over.

"I lost my husband on our 30th wedding anniversary from cancer, and my son, who was 21 and a student at Rutgers, was killed in an automobile accident," she said. "I went to the cemetery every Sunday and cried my eyes out. A friend said, 'If you don't move out of state, the men in white suits are going to come for you.'"

She retired 10 years ago from a career as a receptionist and PBX operator for United Artists, Paramount Studios and Variety. At the time of the quake, she said she was getting by on her Social Security pension and on her dwindling savings.

Suddenly homeless, she lived in her car for two days before going to the shelter, where she has been sent to the hospital three times for treatment of diabetes.

"You know, I once had a wonderful life and a beautiful home," she said. "I've gone from the top to the bottom. I've been through hell."

On Thursday, a trailer from the Federal Emergency Management Administration finally arrived at the shelter to help those who could not travel in search of aid or stand in long lines.

Latsky emerged from her meeting with FEMA workers to say that they had given her "a government 800 number to call." She rolled her eyes.

The organization that is clearly scoring high marks with the elderly is the Red Cross, which up to yesterday had 5,143 people of all ages in its 31 shelters, had counseled 7,799 victims and had served 422,600 meals.

"We're just emergency, short-term help, and we're free," said Red Cross spokeswoman Betty

ELDERLY; Page A18 Col. 5

¹²
BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS

PAGE 31 OF 33



BY MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE

Iveline N. Erwin of Northridge, who turned 80 the day of the earthquake, sat on a cot in a Red Cross shelter and sipped tea.

Hamer. "FEMA is all long-term, and you have to pay it back."

For Iveline N. Erwin, who turned 80 on January 17, the day of the earthquake, the shelter at Granada Hills High has been a lifesaver. Freed from her damaged

Northridge apartment by two men who broke down her door, she wandered around in her nightgown until someone gave her a man's robe and shoes.

"If it hadn't been for the Red Cross, I'd be in a street or a park," she said.

BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS
PAGE 32 OF 33

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

JAN 29 1994



**BRODERICK
PERKINS**

Answering questions on quakes

DOZENS of responses to our offer to answer quake questions have revealed that many of you have a handle on general disaster preparedness information, but just as many of you are uncertain about some of the details.

That's not surprising. Preparing for the Big One isn't always a by-the-book proposition of stockpiling survival gear. It's also learning how to react in a moment's notice to unexpected perils.

Everyone in quake country should attend a Red Cross first aid and disaster training seminar. Become familiar with local government and non-profit emergency management agencies and the services they offer — before the next quake hits. The front of the telephone directory white pages offers wealth of disaster preparedness information.

And this first installment of answers should fill in some of the gaps.

Q I would like a detailed checklist of what I could pack for my family to help us survive for five to seven days. I have three small children and a husband. I'm talking water, food, clothes, everything that is suggested.

— Jackie Kolander, San Jose

A First, there are six categories of essential supplies for disaster survival. They are: water, food, first aid, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies and special items. You need one gallon of water per person per day, stored in plastic containers and at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food, canned goods and dry or powdered items, depending upon your family's consumption.

The American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offer publications that detail all items you should include in your survival kit. Free from Red Cross offices or direct from FEMA, they include the 86-page primer "Are You Ready? Your Guide To Disaster Preparedness" and the A-to-Z list of every thing you'll need in a disaster, "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit," also tells you how to maintain equipment and how to store and rotate food and water supplies. Write FEMA, Publication Request, P.O. Box 70274, Washington, D.C. 20024.

Q Where am I going to store all that is required in an earthquake preparedness kit? It's as if I have to have another house for it all. And what if the house is damaged so that I can't get to it?

— Anonymous

A Don't be daunted by the space required to store the dozens of items recommended by FEMA and the Red Cross.

Store items in strategic locations. The gas shut off wrench, obviously, should be strapped down near the shut-off valve. Place a flashlight, work shoes and a warm jacket under your bed, for example. Put a days' worth of survival food, water and other supplies in a backpack or duffel bag near a doorway so you can grab it on your way out.

"Everybody has to use their own common sense," says Bob Fields, a spokesman with the Santa Clara County Office of American Red Cross.

Several similar small kits, one at home, one in the car and one at the workplace makes more sense than betting on one location, experts say. Get familiar with your home inside and out and consider several existing locations that might be spared in a major quake

BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS
PAGE 23 OF 33

**Astro Sciences receives order from the
Federal Emergency Management Agency**

CHATSWORTH, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 31, 1994--Astro Sciences Corp. (NASDAQ:AOSC) announced Monday that its J&L Information Systems division has received an order from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, for the company's network communication products to assist in FEMA's recovery efforts associated with the California Earthquake.

Lubash, president of Astro Sciences Corp., stated, "We are pleased to be able to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency and their efforts to help the victims of the recent California earthquake. Our offices also suffered damages during the earthquake, but now we are back in full operation." Lubash continued, "J&L Information Systems has supplied FEMA with ChatterBox(tm) communication servers in past emergencies, including the San Francisco earthquake, Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Hugo, the fires in Oakland and the Texas Tornados. For emergency applications and disaster relief, our products are used for computer networks communications from and to remote field locations and central disaster control areas."

Astro Sciences Corp. under its J&L Information Systems division, is a leading manufacturer of communication servers and gateways for the Local Area Network, LAN, and Wide Area Network, WAN, industry.

**CONTACT: Astro Sciences Corp., Chatsworth
A. Charles Lubash, 818/709-1778
or
L.G. Zangani Inc., Flemington, N.J.
Leonardo Zangani, 908/788-9660**

Quake Aid To Immigrants Hit

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (AP) — The earthquake widened the crevice between the state's illegal residents and those who would give them a one-way ticket out of town.

Recent announcements that undocumented immigrants who suffered losses in the quake qualify for emergency home loans and other long-term aid drew a quick response.

"The only relocation aid the illegals should get is a bus ticket back home," said state Rep. Pat Nolan.

Alycia Martinez, a native of Mexico who has lived in the San Fernando Valley for the past eight years without a green card, said she and her four children barely escaped when the walls of their house collapsed in the early morning darkness of Jan. 17.

Because she rents, Martinez said she doesn't plan to apply for federal aid. But she was surprised to hear that anyone would object if she did.

"We all work and pay taxes. We feel it is good for the government to help," Martinez said.

Federal courts have held that undocumented immigrants cannot be denied basic government services, including public education, medical care and some welfare programs.

While there are an estimated 1 million illegal immigrants in the state, disaster aid workers aren't checking immigration status, so it's impossible to know how many are seeking help, state Emergency Services spokeswoman Eliza Chan said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state are using interpreters and foreign-language brochures to assure immigrants they won't risk deportation if they ask for aid, said Chan.

"We want to help people who do not fully realize that they have the right to assistance," Chan said.

For anti-immigrant activist SuSu Levy, it comes down to the question of distributing scarce resources in an already overcrowded region.

"Is it selfish, really, to kick people out of a lifeboat who would sink it?" said Levy, who decided to move to Arizona after the quake.

Nolan and U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, both Republicans, blasted FEMA for allowing non-citizens to apply for aid. They also criticized the Immigration and Naturalization Service for announcing that agents would not police aid centers.

Rohrabacher said Friday that he will introduce legislation to bar federal agencies from offering loans and other long-term relief to undocumented immigrants. Nolan said he will introduce a similar bill to cover state agencies.

A spokesman for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund called that reaction "shameful."

"These disasters do not differentiate between nationality or citizenship status, and neither should the federal government," staff lawyer Tom Saenz said.

AP-NY-01-31-94 0351EST

AS DAMAGE REPORTS MOUNT, 200,000 SEEK QUAKE RELIEF

By Matt Spetalnick

LOS ANGELES, Jan 30 (Reuter) - More than 200,000 victims have flooded relief offices with aid requests following the Los Angeles earthquake, virtually guaranteeing it will surpass Hurricane Andrew as the costliest U.S. disaster, officials said Sunday.

Even as federal funds poured in, authorities began cracking down on price gouging and food-stamp fraud, which have plagued the recovery effort. Ten suspects were arrested in what officials called a front for one of the major scam operations that have sprung up.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency reported Sunday that it had received more aid applications in the two weeks since the quake than in the first six months after Andrew's onslaught.

The latest figures provided further evidence of what California Governor Pete Wilson had already predicted -- that total damages from the devastating quake would top the \$30 billion in losses south Florida sustained in 1992.

"When something like this happens in the middle of the nation's second largest urban area, the magnitude of the damage is bound to be unlike anything we've seen before," said FEMA spokesman Brett Hansard.

Until now, federal officials had been reluctant to corroborate the governor's assessment.

President Clinton has asked Congress to rush \$6.6 billion in disaster aid to southern California, but state officials say it will barely scratch the surface of the area's rebuilding needs.

The magnitude-6.6 quake that rocked Los Angeles before dawn January 17 killed 60 people, collapsed freeways and destroyed more than 14,000 houses and apartments. At least 25,000 people were left homeless.

A series of aftershocks -- one measuring 5.0 -- rumbled through the area early Saturday, buckling already weakened structures and sending some nervous residents scrambling back to shelters.

Scientists working to unlock the secrets of the Northridge Earthquake have concluded that its epicentre -- where the first seismic waves reach the surface -- was actually in the town of hard-hit town of Reseda, several miles south.

As the city struggles toward normalcy, authorities have begun cracking down on scam artists preying on shaken residents.

Federal agents late Saturday arrested 10 people and seized thousands of dollars in cash and food stamps in an operation suspected of illegally laundering coupons that were supposed to have gone to poor people under an emergency distribution.

Dick Montoya, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, say the men were "runners" for a much larger fraud ring.

Amid signs of rampant fraud, food-stamp centres at local welfare offices began a 24-hour shutdown Sunday in an effort to tighten up screening procedures.

More than 50,000 people -- many hungry and homeless -- stood for hours outside county government offices last week in scenes reminiscent of the bread lines of the Great Depression.

City officials, angered by complaints that landlords have been using the quake to evict tenants illegally and raise rents, warned building owners they would be dealt with harshly.

As authorities investigated hundreds of complaints of price gouging, consumer activists fanned out to confront merchants who residents accused of cheating them.

They were demanding that storeowners sign agreements pledging to charge customers fairly or else face boycotts. People had reported paying up to \$10 for a gallon of milk.

On the political front, the harmony that marked the initial response to the quake emergency has since turned to bickering.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, who announced his candidacy Saturday for the Democratic nomination for governor, was quoted in newspaper interviews as accusing Wilson of "wimping out" for failing to ask for a tax increase to help rebuild quake-damaged areas.

Garamendi said that instead of asking the federal government to foot the entire bill, Californians should sacrifice by paying temporarily higher sales and gas taxes.

All across the region's fractured freeway system, engineers worked to open detours to cut down on the nightmarish commute faced by motorists since the quake.

With the number of quake refugees dropping to about 500 overnight in six tent cities, National Guard troops were making plans to begin closing some of the encampments. About 5,000 people were still living in Red Cross shelters.

REUTER

L.A. quake aid applicants surpass Hurricane Andrew total
By MARINA DUNDJERSKI

LOS ANGELES (UPI) _ Less than two weeks after the great Los Angeles earthquake, the number of people seeking disaster aid has already reached 200,000 _ surpassing the total number of aid applications six months after Hurricane Andrew, federal officials said Sunday.

Rebuilding efforts continued, meanwhile, as transportation officials opened various freeway detours to ease traffic jams through key arteries of the Los Angeles freeway system. And in a crackdown on post-quake food stamp fraud, authorities held five suspects in a federal detention center in downtown on suspicion of participating in a black-market food-stamp ring.

The Jan. 17 earthquake _ which has claimed 60 lives _ already is forecast to be the costliest disaster in U.S. history, and the numbers are still rising, officials said.

"The damage from the quake is worse than that from Hurricane Andrew," said James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "And many more people were affected by the quake."

A total of 208,777 earthquake victims filed for aid by Sunday afternoon, Witt said at a news conference in Pasadena outside the California Office of Emergency Services. That number continues to increase by about 20,000 a day, he said, and he predicted that more than 350,000 people will seek aid, far surpassing the total in 1992 for Hurricane Andrew.

The continued flow of people to already long disaster aid lines is due in part to people who were previously unable to get to a center, as well as continued temblors that bring additional destruction, Witt said.

"After every aftershock, we have more damage," Witt said. "We will have to wait until they subside to learn the accurate extent of everything."

To counter the large number of applicants filing for federal and state aid, and to ease lines, Witt said FEMA will open the 19th and 20th Disaster Application Centers in Northridge and Newhall on Monday. However, Witt added that he expects the number of applicants to begin dwindling. The quake has caused an estimated \$30 billion in damage.

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have distributed more than 100,000 food stamps to quake victims. Although most people applying for stamps have been affected by the quake, there are some people who are abusing the system, said John Carey, general counsel for FEMA.

Five people were arrested late Saturday and are awaiting arraignment on charges of food stamp fraud. Carey said the five were found with \$5,000 in food stamps and \$2,500 in cash.

"The people of FEMA are in the business of providing disaster assistance to those persons truly in need," Carey said. "It is our mandate to provide this assistance quickly and compassionately. We will, however, respond to allegations of fraud aggressively and firmly."

In an effort to cut down on fraud, the USDA will begin enforcing a 72-hour waiting period for emergency food stamps beginning Monday. Officials said earlier this week that some people made false, inflated or multiple claims and contributed to lines that stretched for blocks. The emergency food stamps are expected to be distributed through Feb. 8.

Elsewhere, population in Red Cross shelters and tent cities continued to decline as people moved into temporary housing. A total of 5,794 people stayed in shelters Saturday evening.

Authorities said many quake-damaged buildings that were condemned may only need repairs and will be re-inspected to check if residents can return. So far, more than 40,000 buildings have been damaged.

Continuing rebuilding efforts that began in the first hours after the initial 6.6 magnitude earthquake, transportation officials opened new freeway detours, including one around the damaged Golden State Freeway to the Santa Clarita Valley. That detour restored California's primary north-south route to 40 percent of its capacity.

Additional aftershocks, however, continued to cause problems. Portions of the damaged Santa Monica Freeway — the busiest in the nation — sunk an additional six inches Saturday following a sharp aftershock, OES spokeswoman Jude Dunham said.

There were no significant aftershocks recorded by Sunday afternoon, but inspectors were still investigating the effects of several large aftershocks, including a 5.0 on the Richter scale, that struck the area early Saturday, caused new damage and sent Angelenos scrambling for cover once again. Since the 6.6 quake that hit Northridge last week, more than 3,000 aftershocks have been recorded, with 353 measuring between 3.0 and 5.9.

Los Angeles police said the 5.0 aftershock brought down the remains of a stairwell on the campus of Cal State Northridge that had been left partially collapsed by the original temblor. The school, which has been closed since the huge quake, is set to reopen next month.

Several boil-water advisories remain in effect throughout some areas of Topanga Canyon, Santa Clarita and the Castaic area.



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fax NewsExpress

DISASTER UPDATE

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs
Morric Goodman, Director

(202) 646-4600

January 30, 1994

A summary of information gathered today from situation reports from FEMA's Emergency Support Team, Federal response agencies, the Disaster Field Office in Pasadena, the State of California and local governments affected by the Northridge Earthquake in Southern California:

SITUATION

- * An aftershock of 5.0 occurred Jan. 29, causing additional injuries and damage in the Northridge area: a section of Interstate 10 was reported to have dropped six inches, and Holy Cross Hospital and California State University at Northridge suffered more damage.
- * Early earthquake damage estimates of more than \$30 billion exceed the cost of Hurricane Andrew. Although it is too early to calculate the total cost, damage to the road network is estimated to be \$1.4 billion; damage to water and power systems is estimated at approximately \$122 million.
- * Electric power and gas services have been restored to all occupied buildings in the region. An estimated 450 customers remain without water.
- * Damage surveys are only 75% complete, but latest figures show more than 45,000 residential structures damaged and 11,000 homes and apartments uninhabitable. Over 200,000 people have applied for disaster assistance.
- * The population of the temporary emergency park shelters (tents) is down to less than 700 as displaced persons are provided with disaster housing assistance or move back into their own homes.

FEDERAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- * A total of 7,233 federal personnel from U.S. Government agencies and the American Red Cross are currently engaged full-time in the earthquake response and recovery effort.
- * Eighteen stationary Disaster Application Centers (DACs) and 13 mobile DACs remain in operation throughout the affected area, and two additional stationary DACs will open Jan. 31. Beginning today, stationary DAC hours are 9am-7pm PST daily. As of Jan. 28, DAC registrations totaled 54,264.
- * FEMA's 1-800-462-9029 teleregistration number (TDD: 1-800-462-7585) received 12,025 disaster aid applications on Jan. 28, for a cumulative total of 143,161.
- * More than 16,000 checks totaling over \$51 million had been disbursed by FEMA as of Jan. 29 to individuals and families affected by the disaster. As of Jan 30, the Small Business Administration had approved disaster loans totaling \$5,476,700.
- * Thirty-two emergency shelters (30 American Red Cross, 2 Salvation Army) remain in operation. On Jan. 29, they housed 5,794 displaced persons.

-more-

- * **Mobile feeding units on duty in the disaster area** now number 120 (110 Red Cross, 5 Salvation Army, 5 Southern Baptist). To date, they have served 549,881 meals.
- * **The Red Cross is operating 17 Disaster Service Centers** to provide immediate assistance to earthquake victims, and has completed 8,394 of the 15,159 disaster welfare inquiries received to date. Thus far, Red Cross expenditures on the earthquake relief operation total \$31,647,913.
- * **Latest figures from the Emergency Food Stamp certification sites** indicate that 47,262 applications had been received, 35,104 were approved, and an estimated \$9,684,056 in food stamps were issued. Most of the remaining applications are pending, awaiting verification of applicants' identities.
- * **The U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) mission to provide water to the LA area** had delivered 1,191,800 gallons of bulk water and 399,324 gallons of bottled water through Jan. 28. All but four water distribution sites will be closed Jan. 30. USACE has also been tasked by the U.S. Department of Transportation to construct a temporary rail station at Camarillo.
- * **All Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)** were relieved of their missions by the evening of Jan. 29. They had treated a cumulative total of 3,432 patients.
- * **Veterans Administration (VA) nurses and medical personnel** are still being used heavily at the DACs, where they saw a total of 1,920 patients in the three days ending Jan. 28. Two VA mobile health clinics continue to treat patients at the damaged Sepulveda Veterans Administration Medical Center, and two more are deployed daily to various locations determined by LA County officials. The mobile clinics are scheduled to operate through Feb. 2, but may be extended due to the continuing aftershocks in the area.
- * **All voluntary agencies active in the disaster area** say that a cash contribution is one of the best ways to meet the needs of disaster victims in a timely and effective manner. Priority needs also include blankets, diapers, personal comfort items, and plastic sheeting. Donated clothes are NOT needed. The FEMA donations hotline is 1-800-342-1100.

The news media are requested to publish/broadcast the FEMA toll-free disaster assistance teleregistration number as often as possible: 1-800-462-9029, or 1-800-462-7585 (TDD)

For media inquiries only, Public Affairs staff are available at the Pasadena Disaster Field Office to help media. Their number is 818-405-7548.

Stations should call the FEMA Radio Network at 1-800-323-5248 for a series of recorded actualities on the latest developments. These will be updated daily NLT 3:30 p.m. EST.

Regular TV news briefings on the "Recovery Channel" will be uplinked at 10am PST. Live disaster recovery information will be provided from 1pm to 10pm PST daily. During other hours, a crawl will provide essential information. Satellites are Ku Band, SBS 5, Transponder 4, 3.840 Horizontal; and C Band, Galaxy 6, Transponder 7, 11.872 Horizontal.



**NEWS RELEASE
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
COORDINATING OFFICE
Fax NewsExpress**

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#101

January 30, 1994

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

**19TH AND 20TH DISASTER APPLICATION CENTERS
TO OPEN IN NORTHRIDGE AND NEWHALL**

The nineteenth and twentieth State-Federal Disaster Application Centers (DAC) will both open on Monday, Jan. 31, at the following addresses:

**Coast Federal Bank
18000 Chatsworth
Northridge, CA**

**William S. Hart Park
(The Train Station)
24151 North Newhall Ave.
Newhall, CA**

Individuals affected by the Northridge earthquakes can apply at the DACs for a variety of federal, state and local assistance programs. Hours of operation on opening days will be 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thereafter, hours will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice. All existing DACs will remain open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

-end-



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150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#101S
30 de enero de 1994**

★

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

CONTACTO DE PRENSA:

FEMA: (818) 405-7455

**DOS CENTROS DE SOLICITUD PARA ASISTENCIA POR DESASTRE
COMENZARAN OPERACIONES EN NORTHRIDGE Y NEWHALL**

**Dos Centros de Solicitud para Asistencia por Desastre (#19 y #20)
comenzaran operaciones manana Lunes, 31 de enero, en la siguiente
direccion:**

**Coastal Federal Bank
18000 Chatsworth
Northridge, CA**

**Williams S. Hart Park
(The Train Station)
24151 North Newhall Ave.
Newhall, CA**

**Aquellos individuos afectados por el terremoto de Northridge pueden
solicitar, en los Centros, una variedad de programas de asistencia
federal, estatal y local. El horario del primer dia sera de 1 p.m.
a 7 p.m. Pasado manana, las horas de operacion seran de 9 a.m. a
7 p.m. hasta nuevo aviso. Todos los Centros de Solicitud para
Asistencia por Desastre permaneceran con las mismas horas de
operacion (de 9 a.m. a 7 p.m.).**

--fin--



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**O E S
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FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#105

January 30, 1994

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

**EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS WITH APPOINTMENTS AT
NORTHRIDGE/GRANADA HILLS DAC MAY COME IN EARLIER**

PASADENA -- Anyone with an appointment to register for local, state, and federal disaster assistance at the Northridge/Granada Hills Disaster Application Center (DAC) may come in earlier, federal and state officials said today.

The Northridge/Granada Hills DAC is located at the

**Winnetka Recreation Center
8401 Winnetka Avenue
Northridge, CA 91306**

A second DAC in Northridge is at the

**Coast Federal Bank Building
18000 Chatsworth
Northridge, CA 91325**

DACs are open daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

-end-



**NEWS RELEASE
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
COORDINATING OFFICE
Fax NewsExpress**

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#106
January 30, 1994**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

**FEMA: (818) 405-7548
OES: (818) 405-7408**

**Daily News Summary
State/Federal Northridge Earthquake**

Disaster Facts

**To apply for federal/state
Disaster Assistance:**

**24-hour toll-free
teleregistration
1-800-462-9029
TDD 1-800-462-7585**

**For information:
24-hour toll-free
information hotline
1-800-525-0321
TDD 1-800-660-8005**

**Total registrations
as of 3 p.m. January 29:
DACs 59,605
Teleregistrations ... 149,239
Total 208,844**

**Estimated total
structures damaged: 40,000+
Estimated total
damage cost: Being assessed.**

**Patients being admitted
to hospitals: 1,397
Injuries/Fatalities: 9,159/57**

--more--

Daily Summary
Add One

Emergency Food Stamp Application
Suspended Till Monday, January 31

Offices where low-income persons affected by the Northridge quake may apply for the Emergency Food Stamp Program will be closed today, January 30. The closure is to enable restructuring of the 29 Los Angeles County offices processing applications. Under the new structure, the County will have 16 application sites. It has agreed to develop a transportation plan to provide shuttle service to and from emergency application offices where public transportation is not readily available.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, California Department of Social Services, and the County of Los Angeles completed negotiations that will allow the county 72 hours to process food stamp applications and issue a decision letter indicating the eligibility of each applicant. Eligible individuals can pick up their benefits that day. This procedure became effective on Saturday, January 29.

* * *

Disaster Shelter Population On The Decline

Total disaster shelter occupancy continues to decline. A total of 5,794 persons were still in shelters as of January 29. Shelter population is down from a high of 10,700 reported on January 24; and 6,265 reported yesterday, January 29. A number of housing programs made available to displaced persons has hastened the relocation into more permanent housing.

Local government and voluntary agencies have been helping residents of the temporary emergency park shelters (TEPS) move back into their homes or locate alternate housing. TEPs now totalling 696 persons in 4 locations are down from a high of 4,650 reported January 23. The remaining TEPs may begin closing early next week.

~ Human Services: To date, over 16,000 housing checks have been issued to families to meet their housing needs.

--more--

Daily Summary
Add Two

Human services, individual assistance programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is working with the City of Simi Valley to identify and fix approximately 600 mobile homes that sustained foundation damage. At the request of the City of Santa Clarita, inspections of mobile homes knocked off their foundations, were also conducted.

Interviews will begin Monday, January 31, with sheltered residents of the City of Fillmore to identify those who would be interested in living in a mobile home as there is no available housing in the area.

Eighteen fixed and thirteen mobile Disaster Application Centers (DACs) are now open. Two more DACs will open on Monday, January 31:

DAC #19

**Coast Federal Bank
18000 Chatsworth
Northridge, CA**

DAC #20

**William S. Hart Park
(the train station)
24151 North Newhall Avenue
Newhall, CA**

DAC hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice.

~ Transportation: CALTRANS urges drivers to reduce driving speed because the rail tunnel at Santa Clarita (Interstate-5/State Route 14 Interchange) has flooded. Cracks in the tunnel have been observed, but the tunnel is judged safe at this time. CALTRANS is considering extending the tunnel by 1,500 feet to protect the railroad right of way so that train service will not be interrupted.

The Interstate-5/State Route 14 reroute opened January 29 to provide two lanes in each direction, and return the system to 50 percent of capacity. CALTRANS reports that the routing was the last of their options until the structure is rebuilt.

-- more--

Daily Summary
Add Three

~ Public Works and Engineering: The Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked to provide construction management services for towing and installation of approximately 50 government furnished mobile homes and 100 travel trailers. The Corps has also been tasked to build a temporary rail station in Camarillo. A detailed scope of work and operation plan is being developed.

The Corps is also providing 197 engineers to help local officials inspect buildings. Structures inspected include commercial buildings, apartments, single-family dwellings, and public buildings. Five of the six Disaster Application Center (DAC) building inspections are complete.

~ Health and Medical Services: Medical services personnel at the 18 Disaster Application Centers (DACs) continue to provide assistance to those visiting the application centers. During the three days that medical support has been provided to the DACs, a total of 1,920 patients have received assistance. Through January 28, federal Disaster Medical Assistance Teams and the two mobile Veterans Administration clinics have seen 5,669 patients.

~ Hazardous Materials: Clean-up of the Santa Clara River oil spill continues. Contractors, under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on-scene coordinator, have removed 1,539 barrels of oil from the river and spill area. The revised estimate of spillage is now 5,113 barrels. This remains the largest spill resulting from the Northridge quake; it occurred near the Highway 126 junction with Interstate-5.

Spill clean-up in the Los Angeles River in the City of San Fernando also continues. Oil recovered in the cleanup is being taken to an oil storage tank. Contaminated soil is being stored in roll-off boxes until arrangements for final disposal are finalized.

--end--



MEDIA ADVISORY FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

Fax NewsExpress

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#107
January 30, 1994**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

**FEMA: (818) 405-7548
OES: (818) 405-7408**

NEWS BRIEFING

WHEN: Monday, January 31, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Disaster Field Office
245 S. Los Robles
Pasadena, CA 91101

PARTICIPANT :

**Dr. Richard Andrews, Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)**

**James Lee Witt, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**Dr. Lucile M. Jones, Seismologist
United States Geological Survey**

**Joe Shuldiner
Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**Bill Ludwig, Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Services (USDA F&NS)**

ISSUES:

- * Seismic future of Southern California
- * Emergency food stamp program
- * Earthquake concerns of the day
- * Question & answer session
- * One-on-one interviews

TV STATIONS: The briefings will be made available by satellite
at the following coordinates: KU Band SBS-5,
Transponder 4; C-Band Galaxy 6, Transponder 7.

-end-



**NEWS RELEASE
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
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**SAFETY ASSESSMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
SPEEDS EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY**

PASADENA -- Shortly after the magnitude 6.6 earthquake centered in Northridge on January 17, hundreds of volunteer and local government building inspectors were on hand at damage sites, evaluating the safety of lifelines and structures.

The volunteers are among the 2,000 government and private-industry engineers, architects, and building inspectors who comprise the state's Safety Assessment Volunteer Program. Coordinated by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the program is designed to help local governments evaluate the post-disaster safety of residential and commercial structures, as well as essential facilities such as hospitals and police and fire stations.

"Our goal is to help local governments allow occupants to return to their buildings as quickly as possible, so that they can begin the repair and recovery process," said Rick Ranous, OES structural engineer and program coordinator.

After completing an inspection, a volunteer posts the building with a placard or "tag" indicating the building's status. A green placard means lawful occupancy is permitted, a yellow indicates restricted or limited use is allowed, and a red means occupancy is not permitted.

In Los Angeles County, the volunteers inspect structures and make evaluations with safety as the primary concern. Therefore, buildings believed to be unsafe sometimes have been "red-tagged" as unsafe, even if it had not been possible to do complete, in-depth inspections.

-- more--

**Safety Assessment
Add One**

Sometimes inspectors cannot gain entry into buildings. In these cases, inspectors conduct outside-of-building inspections. Therefore, some structures may be initially assessed as having more serious structural damage than is the actual case.

"Access to buildings is a local government decision," Ranous explained. "It is up to each jurisdiction to determine under what conditions occupants may enter their buildings and retrieve their possessions."

Rapid evaluations focus on structures and lifelines that are obviously safe or unsafe; each lasts about 20 minutes. Detailed evaluations focus on structures requiring much more thorough assessments and can last as long as 1-1/2 hours.

Each volunteer inspector is a qualified professional and a member of the Structural Engineers Association of California, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the American Institute of Architects, the American Construction Inspectors' Association, or the California Building Officials.

The program was conceived in 1971, after the magnitude-6.4 Sylmar earthquake damaged both the Olive View and San Fernando Veterans Administration hospitals, far exceeding assessment capabilities of local government.

After an earthquake or other disaster, OES activates the program at the request of local government. "Volunteers are sent to assist local jurisdictions, who remain in charge," Ranous said.

Ranous added that the number of volunteers deployed, the time it takes to complete all the inspections and assessments, and the complexity of the mission varies with every disaster.

-end-

**Food Stamp Applications Offices
Add One**

Emergency Food Stamp Sites

***Ferguson Site
5557 Ferguson Ave.
East Los Angeles, CA**

**Rancho Park
10961 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA**

***Dodger Stadium
1000 Elysian Ave.
Los Angeles, CA**

**San Fernando
12847 Arroyo St.
Sylmar, CA**

**East Valley DPSS
14550 Lanark St.
Panorama City, CA**

**Santa Clarita
27233 Camp Plenty Rd.
Canyon Country, CA**

**El Monte/San Gabriel Valley DPSS
9521 E. Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA**

**South Central
10728 So. Central Ave.
Los Angeles, CA**

**Exposition Park DPSS
3965 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA**

**Southwest Special
1326 W. Imperial Hwy.
Los Angeles, CA**

**Lancaster DPSS
349-B Ave. K-6
Lancaster, CA**

***Victoria Park
419 E. 192nd St.
Carson, CA**

**Paramount DPSS
1215 E. San Antonio Dr.
Long Beach, CA**

**West Valley
9035 Canoga Ave.
Canoga Park, CA**

**Pomona DPSS
2040 W. Holt Ave.
Pomona, CA**

***Whittier Narrows Park
1000 N. Durfee Ave.
Rosemead, CA**

(* indicates new site)

-end-



**NEWS RELEASE
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
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Fax NewsExpress**

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Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
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FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#109

January 30, 1994

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

**EMERGENCY FOOD STAMP APPLICATION
OFFICES TO REOPEN MONDAY**

PASADENA, Jan. 30 -- Department of Public Social Services offices will reopen on Monday, Jan. 31, after being closed for one day on Sunday, to prepare for a consolidated processing system designed to provide greater security and fraud control in the emergency Food Stamp Program.

The number of Public Social Services offices accepting applications for the one-time only emergency food stamp issuance will be reduced from 29 to 16 on Monday at the request of law enforcement officials.

Under the new system, county food stamp workers will have 48 hours to approve emergency food stamp applications. Application data will be transmitted to a centralized data processing center and approval notice enabling people to pick up food stamps should be in recipients' hands within three days. Applicants also will be notified of the issuance location where they may pick up their food stamps. Persons found to be ineligible will receive a notice of denial of benefits.

The deadline to apply for emergency food stamps has been extended to Feb. 8 as a result of the one day application moratorium. The 16 sites will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to accept emergency food stamp applications. A listing of the 16 processing site locations is attached. The Department of Public Social Services will continue to process applications for regular food stamps at its designated offices during regular business hours of 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

--more--



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
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Fax NewsExpress

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**O E S
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FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#110

January 30, 1994

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

FEMA: (818) 405-7548

OES: (818) 405-7408

MEDIA ADVISORY

**WHO: James Lee Witt, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**Don Jones, Vice President of Disaster Services
American Red Cross (ARC)**

**WHERE: American Red Cross Super Service Center
Northridge Fashion Center
Tampa and Plummer Streets
Northridge, CA**

**WHEN: Monday, January 31, 1994
2:00 p.m.**

**PURPOSE: Tour the facility
* One of 17 ARC centers in operation throughout
the earthquake-damaged area**

**Meet with workers
* 50 ARC caseworkers currently assigned there**

**Meet with people seeking assistance
* Assistance includes food, clothing, health &
medical aid, urgent household items, and temporary
housing**

-end-

Put simply, the scientists retooled a computer model for weather forecasting to make it account more realistically for soil moisture.

The essence of this change has to do with the way moisture makes its way from the ground into the air.

The previous forecast model properly accounted for moisture in only the top 3 inches of soil, Betts said in an interview. The revised model accounts for the moisture stored in a much deeper layer.

In the heat of summer, crops, trees and other plants transfer moisture from the ground to the atmosphere.

These plants reach down several feet deep to draw up water. Then, using the energy of sunlight, they release water vapor into the air as part of their daily growth cycle. This release is called evapotranspiration.

When large areas have wet soil, the moisture from evapotranspiration sets off a cascade of events leading to rain, Betts said. Humidity stays high and the bottom of the cloud layer stays low.

"This favors the formation of thunderstorms and a rainy weather system," he said. "It's a feedback — if it keeps on raining in one place, the soil moisture will remain high and continue to favor rain."

A Successful Test

Betts tested the new forecast model by plugging in weather conditions for July 1. The region was primed for the flood-producing rain by above-normal precipitation in the fall of 1992 and early months of 1993.

Twice, Betts ran the model forward for one month to see what kind of rain it would predict over the region. One forecast was started with wet soils and one with dry soils.

The model started with wet soil showed heavy rain falling in the Midwest in the same area where it did fall. The model started with dry soil forecast little rain there.

"This suggests that we may now have the potential for better long-

term precipitation forecasts for the continent," Betts said.

He estimates that wet soil contributed more than 5 inches of rain in July 1993 — roughly half of what fell.

The self-feeding wet cycle could have been cut off if the jet stream had shifted enough to allow two or three weeks of dry weather, Betts said.

"Keep in mind: this is only one process in a big, interacting global system," he said. But, he said, with the soil already wet in the spring, this feedback system is "a much more probable suspect" than El Nino.

Betts ran another test. The new forecast model accurately predicted where rain fell each day in July as much as five days ahead. In contrast, the old forecast model predicted rain accurately only a day or two ahead.

The tests show that properly accounting for soil moisture makes a large difference in forecast accuracy.

The Flood Of '94?

A key implication of the research is that if soil moisture remains high into next spring, heavy rain and flooding are more likely, Betts said.

But a small ray of hope was reported at the meeting: soil in the region dried out a bit in the last three months of 1993. That was the 15th driest October through December in the century of weather record-keeping, said Kenneth Kunkel, director of the Midwestern Climate Center, in Champaign, Ill.

Still, a lot more drying needs to occur, since soil moisture was at a record level before October. It is still slightly higher than normal in most of the region, Kunkel said. Also, levels of the region's rivers and shallow ground-water systems remain high.

"Given these conditions and the fact that deep soil moisture is still way above normal, the likelihood of flooding is still above normal," he said. "It's just that the dryness of the past few months has eased the threat a bit."

The El Nino effect should be less intense this year, but it is unclear whether the jet stream will behave as

it did in 1993, said David Rodenhuis, director of the weather service's Climate Analysis Center, in Camp Springs, Md.

"As we enter next spring, we'll be watching to see if the same elements as last year set themselves up," Rodenhuis said. "We'll be especially alert in issuing advisories."

Although some areas will be flooded during the spring snow melt, the extent and severity of flooding

will depend on future snow and rain, several experts said.

They doubted that a flood as extreme as last summer's could repeat itself this year.

"That, in my opinion, is very unlikely," said Gary Dyhouse, a hydrologist with the Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis.

The weather service's first flood outlook for the year is scheduled for release Feb. 11.

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Oh-Oh, Midwest, Look Out For The Ohio

NASHVILLE, Tenn. LIKE AMATEUR boxers in the ring, Midwest flood-watchers looking for the uppercut should beware of the hook.

That's because the Ohio River appears to be priming for a big swing.

So says Frank Richards, a National Weather Service hydrologist in Silver Spring, Md.

"In the last couple of months, the Ohio basin has moistened up," Richards said last week at the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society.

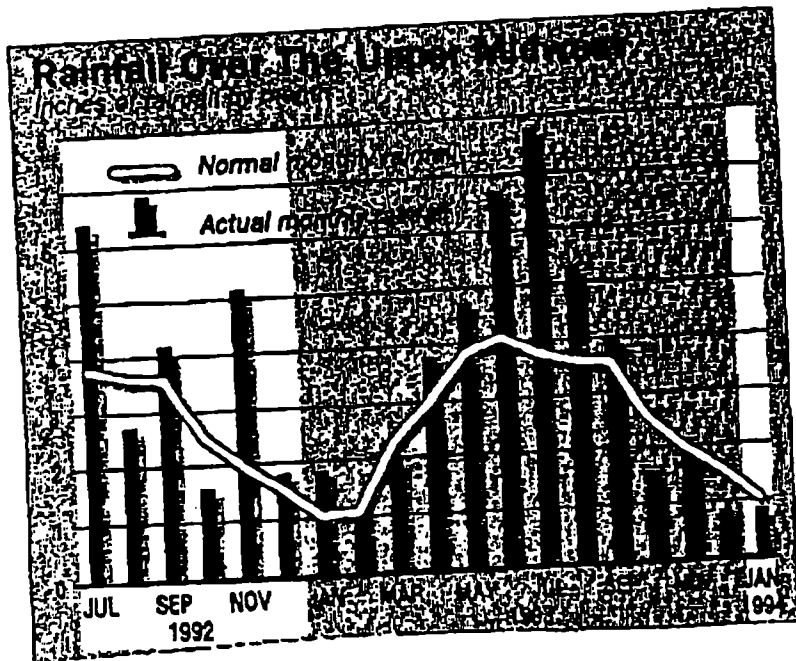
The Ohio contributes about two-thirds of the water carried by the Mississippi River at Cairo, Ill. Despite flooding on the upper Mississippi last year, the lower Mississippi had no problems because the Ohio was low.

But heavy snow has primed the Ohio, Richards said.

"The concern right now is the entire Mississippi River Basin, not just the upper basin," he said.

"We could look one way and get hit from the other way."

— William Allen



CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

JAN 30 1994

A flood of troubles

Riverside residents come home to muck and devastation, but at least one sees a bright side: 'It's a beautiful place in the summer.'

By BILL SAMMON, JAMES F. McCARTY
and ROY GUTTERMAN
PLAIN DEALER REPORTERS

1A

The water stole into their homes like some foul-smelling, incredibly powerful intruder that ripped doors from hinges, shattered windows and tossed furniture about as if in doll houses.

It retreated under the cover of darkness, coating carpets, walls and priceless keepsakes with slime.

And that was what greeted evacuees who returned to their flood-ravaged homes around the Chagrin and Rocky rivers yesterday. Most said it was the

worst flooding in a generation. One official put the damage in the millions.

Here is a river-by-river look at the flood's aftermath.

The Rocky River

Ducks paddled blissfully over submerged lawns while fish swam in basements of homes on the west bank of the Rocky River yesterday.

The neighborhood was crawling with insurance adjusters, contractors, police, utility workers and bulldozer drivers. Neighbors traded boats, docks, garbage cans and everything else that had been

picked up and moved by the river's might on Friday.

The rampaging ice moved homes off their foundations and ripped gas meters from supply lines, leaving natural gas bubbling through icy floodwaters. East Ohio Gas workers fanned out across the soggy streets, shutting down supplies and leaving homes as cold as the ice blocks outside.

"Everything's annihilated," said John F. Chagin of Yacht Club Dr. "What a sight."

Chagin and his mud-caked family spent yesterday pumping, hosing and wet-vac'ing the filth from their home and tossing out ruined belongings. The flood had destroyed the furnace and water heater, leaving the house cold and damp.

"It's a beautiful place in the summer, gang," Chagin mused.

Next door, there are four steps up to the first floor of Dianne P. Misenko's

But that still left the basement filled. Many of Misenko's belongings bobbed atop the 5-foot-deep pool.

"There's my Wesson oil," Misenko pointed out. "And my sewing kit. I kept extra groceries in the basement, but I guess I don't have any more."

The flood turned the house of Paul A. Murray and Gerry Kelly into a virtual island. Televisions, beds, stereos, carpets and everything else in the first floor of the house were destroyed. The men heaved couches out windows and watched them float down the street.

"We're sunk," Murray said. "Everything's gone."

The ice-gorged water pulled 16-foot wooden posts from the river bottom. Dock catwalks careened at crazy angles, thrust upward by the force of the flood.

SEE MUCK/16-A

Huge yachts, some valued at \$200,000, lay on their sides while smaller boats were jumbled together on the Cleveland Yachting Club's island.

Upriver, between the Clifton Blvd. bridge and the Norfolk and Western Railway trestle, an entire marina was wiped out by the water and ice. Dave DeCapua, owner of DeCapua Marina, said he and his wife would rebuild the 42 docks this summer.

"A lot of it was just swept out to sea," said DeCapua as he picked his way through the wreckage. "It's amazing that the quiet Rocky River can become the kind of torrent and mischief maker — to say the least — that it's been today. The river takes over everything it wants."

His daughter, Elizabeth, added: "It looks like Alaska, not Rocky River, Ohio. From the right angle, the ice looks like glaciers."

While the west bank of the river was bustling with activity, the east bank was desolate. Residents of the two dozen posh homes at Clifton Lagoons in Lakewood remained evacuated as officials kept an uneasy eye on the mouth of the river, which was still choked by a

Mayor David Harbarger escorted a reporter to the edge of the mouth and gazed over the surreal jangle of ice shards, some as large as driveways. A virtual forest of splintered trees, ripped from the river's banks by the raging water, now stood stock still, jutting every which way among the icebergs.

"It's usually very quiet down here, but this is just plain eerie," Harbarger said. "I have never seen anything like this. It shows you who's in charge — and it ain't us."

Harbarger said he and Rocky River officials would ask Gov. George V. Voinovich to declare the place a disaster area so funds can be sought from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He estimated the damage in the millions.

But he expressed doubt about the prospect of getting the vast amount of ice and debris out of the river without further damage.

"This is far from over," Harbarger warned. "I look at this and I see monstrous trouble."

The Chagrin River

By the time the raging waters of the Chagrin River came knocking on Ed Dohnal's back door Friday, he had already safely moved his 1975 Corvette and 1992 Sable to higher ground.

When the water and ice poured into his garage on W. Island Dr., Dohnal rescued his 1993 Harley Davidson motorcycle, rolling the low-rider hog into his living room. The scene recalled the flood of 1989, which claimed a 1973 model.

"I wasn't going to lose this one, too," Dohnal said. "I pushed that Harley up and the water was just coming after us."

1/5

PAGE 3 OF 21

In his 37 years in the house, Dohnal said, the flood of 1994 was unrivaled.

"This was it. This is by far the worst."

Dohnal assessed his damaged property from an easy chair in his damp living room yesterday, seated beside his beloved bike.

"It's bad, wet and a lot of ice," Dohnal said. "You spend all the time fixing up the house and all these setbacks, but we love it — summer's coming," he said.

Like Dohnal, Beatrice Jenkins learned from the past. After losing her house in the flood of 1989, Jenkins stayed high and dry even though she lives astride the churning Chagrin.

"This flood was about the same as 1989," Jenkins said. "But this time wasn't as bad for me."

That is because, when Jenkins rebuilt her house, she made sure it was erected on stilts 10 feet above the river.

On the Fairport side of the Grand River, three feet of floodwater poured into the Western Reserve Yacht Club and Riverbend Marina.

To prevent the clubhouse from being crushed by ice chunks, club member Frank Myers used a front-end loader to scoop ice and push water away. His work went for naught.

"It's pretty bad out there," Myers said after a broken hose forced him to end his efforts.

American Red Cross volunteers said they visited 71 flooded homes in Eastlake and Willoughby Hills, which made up about 85% of the homes affected. Water-covered roads prevented access to some of the worst-hit residences, said Rick McPeak, executive director of the Lake County chapter.

About a half dozen homes suffered major damage, with the rest receiving minor water damage, McPeak said.

"The landscape is surrealistic," McPeak said, "with huge chunks of ice as big as cars strewn everywhere."

A Red Cross mobile unit provided sandwiches to displaced people, police, firefighters and rescue volunteers. A service center based at Eastlake City Hall provided help finding temporary housing, food

The Vermilion River

Residents of the Vermilion River floodplain were forced to postpone their bittersweet homecomings as the river continued to rise and pour over its banks.

About 100 Vermilion homeowners were forced to spend a second night away from home yesterday. The Vermilion River flooded over U.S. 6, east of the downtown bridge, leaving roads, businesses, boat yards and houses on Riverside and Nautical Drs. and the lagoons neighborhood surrounded by water.

Freezing temperatures on Saturday stabilized the flooding, which peaked around midnight Friday, but it did little to help the waters recede in flooded areas.

"We're just watching. There's absolutely nothing else we can do," said Mayor Elizabeth Sheeha.

Throughout the day, gawkers walked over a bridge with cameras and videocameras, recording Vermilion's worst flood since 1985.

A Port Authority icebreaker tried, but failed, to jar the river's jam. Bill Summers, a member of the Port Authority, said the crew quit after about five hours.

"It's like a boy doing a man's work," Summers said.

The ice-breaking tug Neah Bay was equally unsuccessful at breaking ice jams in the Rocky and Chagrin rivers yesterday. The rivers were too shallow for the tug to even chip at the floes, said Chief Petty Officer Dominic Ciani of the Coast Guard.

"The real problem with these swollen, blocked rivers is that frequently the jams are happening way up the river where we can't get to them," Ciani said. "It's maddening, but there's really nothing we can do."

The Neah Bay had better luck in the Cuyahoga and Grand rivers. It cut a path for a load of fuel oil to be delivered in the Flats, and managed to make its way about a mile up the Grand River.

Weather forecasts called for a return to more seasonal frigid weather. Temperatures were expected to return to the teens overnight, with a high of 20 today, said Ken Reeves of Accu-Weather. The rest of the week was expected to remain well below freezing, causing a layer of ice to reform on the

"It may not immediately alleviate your problems," Reeves said, "but the melting will definitely be ending."

Ciani, from the Coast Guard, warned that flooding could return. "The freezing temperatures may stabilize things, but with the amount of snow you've received this winter, it doesn't bode well for the spring."

Plain Dealer reporters Peter Geller, Kevin Harter and Molly Kavanaugh contributed to this report.



PO/CURT CHANDLER

In 1989, Ed Dohnal lost a Harley Davidson motorcycle to a flood on W. Island Dr. in Eastlake. He took no chances Friday. He wheeled his 1993 Harley Low Rider Convertible into his living room, where it remained high and dry yesterday.

2/5

PAGE 4 OF 21

MIAMI HERALD JAN 30 1994

FEMA simply follows law on disaster recovery

Editorials such as The Herald's Jan. 23 *The devil's in the details* — an obvious attempt to leverage the state's meeting with the Federal Emergency Management Agency director — makes one wonder who's paying attention to details.

As Ty Harrington, executive officer for Hurricane Andrew recovery, explained to The Herald, a disaster survey report is an "estimate" of damage, not a promise to pay.

The U.S. government committed

itself to South Florida's recovery from Hurricane Andrew, and is living up to that promise.

Including Small Business Administration loans, FEMA has coordinated the funding of more than \$2 billion for Hurricane Andrew recovery. There is more in the pipeline, too. This does not account for funds committed by the U.S. Agriculture Department, Housing and Urban Development, and many other federal agencies.

The U.S. government, however, did

not commit to pay specific expenditures without proper justification and determination of eligibility under FEMA laws and regulations.

A disaster brings extraordinary expenses, such as employee overtime, and FEMA pays those expenses. However, Congress does not allow payment of regular, planned functions with federal tax dollars. Federal disaster assistance supplements local and state resources. It does not replace them.

FEMA is committed to South Florida's recovery, but Hurricane Andrew is unique in FEMA's response and recovery history. Many issues here set precedents. Some must be resolved via an appeals process; others may cause regulations to be rewritten.

FEMA will continue to work with all disaster-aid applicants to ensure that they get every penny for which they're eligible. But it cannot arbitrarily abrogate laws and regulations by giving a penny more than that.

RUSS EDMONSTON
Public Affairs Officer,
FEMA
Miami

989

MIAMI HERALD JAN 30 1994

Pier pressure

Marina repairs keep boaters at bay

By LISA ARTHUR
And JUDY BATTISTA 1/3
Herald Staff Writers

Eighteen months after Hurricane Andrew shipwrecked South Dade boaters, sailors will soon be able to drop anchor at two of three county marinas.

But repairs have yet to begin on the largest and most popular marina — Matheson Hammock in Coral Gables — where mangled piers still keep boaters docked elsewhere.

Homestead Bayfront Park and Bill Bird Park and Marina (formerly Black Point) will be ready in mid-April, with refurbished boat slips, new concession stands

and updated restrooms.

The delay at Matheson Hammock — only three of the nine piers should be ready by July — has angered a small but vocal contingent of sailors.

County officials say the wait may pay off in the end. They hope boaters will end up with a new marina, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency helping to pay for the replacement of six piers that were more than 30 years old.

"What it amounts to is that the citizens of Dade County could get a new marina," said Frank Faragalli, Dade County parks

PLEASE SEE MARINAS, 5B

4/3

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project administrator for the marinas.

Frustrating delays

A series of problems contributed to the delays in starting the Matheson Hammock project, county officials said.

Shortly after the hurricane, county and FEMA officials decided the inspections done by eye in the days after Andrew were inadequate. FEMA also asked for more thorough inspections, including some by underwater teams.

Negotiations with insurance companies that covered part of the marina — though not the docks — also took time.

And when the county solicited bids on repairing the aging concrete piers in October 1993, FEMA and the state asked Metro to reconsider. They suggested the piers — which only had a few years of life left — be replaced with new ones.

"FEMA, to its credit, said if the federal government is going to invest in a project, let's make sure they are going to last," Faragalli said.

Two underwater surveys have been completed, and FEMA is studying the county's proposal to replace the piers for \$3.5 million. FEMA couldn't say when it would make its decision.

If FEMA only pays part of the tab to replace the piers, county officials say there's other hurricane relief money that could be used to cover the difference.

Source of income

The marinas are sizable money makers for the county and the private companies that run the marinas and concessions.

In the year preceding Hurricane Andrew, the marinas netted \$1.2 million.

After the hurricane, the county got two state grants to make up for lost revenue at the parks through June 30 of this year.

Boaters have been able to launch boats from all three parks for more than a year. But boat storage — in both wet and dry dock — is still unavailable at Bill Bird and Matheson Hammock.

And that has some boaters feeling landlocked.

"Our boats are all over the city," says Jay Silbert, commodore of the 100-family Matheson Hammock Yacht Club. "We're in Crandon, Dinner Key behind

homes in Gables by the Sea. We're everywhere there is still a spot open."

Silbert says the county is dragging its feet on the Matheson Hammock repairs.

But for those farther south, marinas seem to be less of a priority.

"I had a lot of destruction at home," says Roy Hibbs, who lives in Kendall and launches his 26-foot Bayliner from Bill Bird marina. "I had a lot of destruction on the boat. The destruction was so great, it's understandable it's taken so long. I think they've done a really good job."

Even the most understanding boaters are clamoring to get back in the marinas. All three parks have waiting lists for dock space, and dock masters receive constant calls from boaters wanting

to know when the marinas will open.

Metro Commissioner Javier Souto, who along with Commissioner Bruce Kaplan heads the commission's parks committee, says he understands the frustration of Silbert's group. But he hopes boaters will keep in mind the magnitude of the hurricane damage.

"I guess no one is happy with the pace of any of the repairs in Dade County as far as Hurricane Andrew goes," Souto said. "This was a humongous disaster, and FEMA is a huge monster bureaucracy."

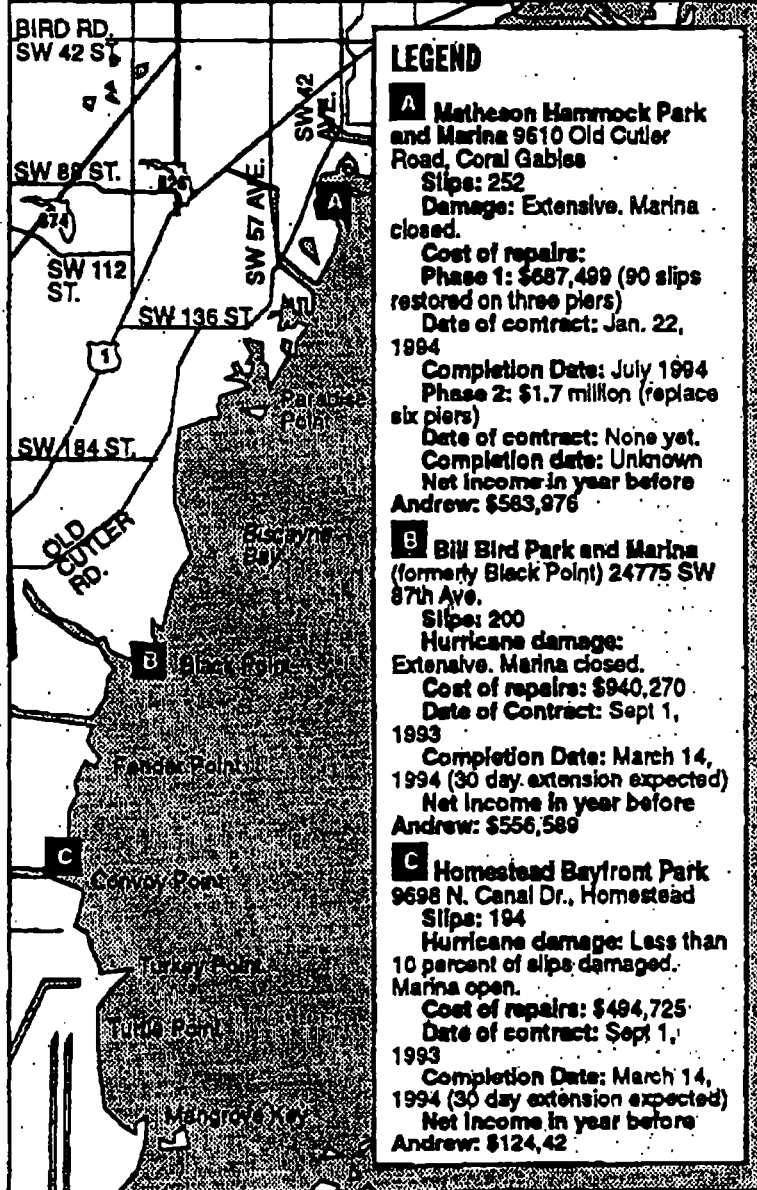
"Crime is a priority. The health of the citizens is a priority. Are boats a priority? I think FEMA probably had other priorities, and this wasn't one of them."

2/3

789

MARINA REPAIRS

Eighteen months after Hurricane Andrew, two of the county's three marinas are almost ready to reopen. But repairs have yet to begin at Matheson Hammock in Coral Gables. Here's the status of the three marinas.



TIFFANY GRANTHAM / Miami Herald Staff

3/3

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MIAMI HERALD JAN 29 1994

The Devil's Den

Homeless find shelter in Andrew's rubble

By AMINDA MARQUES GONZALEZ
And OSCAR MUIBAY
Herald Staff Writers

There are no phones, no running water, no electricity at this South Dade apartment complex. Yet 70 people live in the four abandoned buildings, sharing one portable bathroom, relying on bottled water and cooking on makeshift outdoor barbecues.

The people have nicknamed the place "La Cueva del Diablo" — the Devil's Den.

Still, it is better than being out on the streets.

"Right now our options are zero," said Sherry Kaula, 35, who came here looking for work after Hurricane Andrew. She

now lives in an "apartment" with her two children — Matthew, 6, and Jena, 21 months.

"This is home," Kaula said.

In South Dade, there is nowhere else to go. Homelessness is a lingering aftereffect of Hurricane Andrew. About 1,800 homeless people live south of Kendall Drive, according to a study released this month by Andrew Cherry, sociology professor at Barry University. In 1988, there were fewer than 1,000, he said.

The numbers could have been higher. About 2,000 displaced families are living on borrowed time in trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management

PLEASE SEE SQUATTERS, 2B

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Agency.

And there is no immediate solution.

Affordable housing is at a premium. The hurricane destroyed 13,000 homes and apartments for the poor, and few have been rebuilt.

In the meantime, there is no homeless shelter, and plans to build one are at least three years away. So people with no place to go are creating shelters of their own, moving into the abandoned buildings dotting South Dade.

"No one is taking the responsibility for this issue in any significant way," said Donna MacDonald, executive director of the Homeless Coalition. "Obviously, a year has gone by, and there still is no concrete plan to deal with how the hurricane impacted poor families in South Dade."

The Devil's Den is a cluster of four buildings in Naranja that were once a migrant farmworker camp. In the past year, this is the third group to move into the 20 apartments. Each time the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services finds one group temporary housing, another moves in, said Thomas Franklin, program administrator of the HRS South Dade Community Health Team.

Outside the encampment, known as the Taylor Camp, extension cords hang across the rooftops like garland, connecting the units to a communal generator that once belonged to a post-hurricane tent city. Overburdened, it quits frequently.

Children play near a pile of debris, the stuff cleared off the property by the unofficial tenants. Some of the men, day workers with no jobs, have patched the roofs and put up old doors. Others furnished their apartments with discards, giving the place a peculiar homeyness.

The group, which includes nine families, is a potpourri of Hispanics, Anglos, Haitians and blacks, construction workers and farmworkers. Their one bond is the Taylor Camp.

Raul San Dabal, 25, is a migrant farmworker who came here two months ago from North Carolina. Work has been slow, he said.

"The work is very scarce, and if we find some, it's only for half an hour or an hour," said San Dabal, who says he earns \$40 in a good week. "You live day to day here."

Carlos Diaz Hernandez, 23, headed south for the same reasons.

"They told us there was a lot of work here, but all there is is a lot of disillusionment," he said. "A lot of poverty. A lot of lost hope."

Several nonprofit groups, along with HRS, have been trying to help. It has been difficult. Many of the people came after the hurricane and aren't eligible for federal aid.

The Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations and Centro Campesino are drafting a proposal for the Homeless Trust seeking money to provide temporary housing for six months.

"We just don't want to go in there and close the camp and throw them out on the street," said Nancy Rivera, outreach director at Centro Campesino, a nonprofit social service agency. "That would be cruel. It would be as cruel as leaving them there."

They are trying to get the property owner to allow the people to stay awhile, but no one can find the owner.

Metro Commissioner Alex Penelas, co-chairman of the Homeless Trust, said there are plans to build a shelter in South Dade, but it's going to take time.

"These people are just a drop in the bucket," he said. "Because there's another 7,000 people we haven't reached yet either. You can go to a million places in this county, and you'll find pockets of 50 to 60 people. That's just the facts. We are dealing with scarce resources."

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ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

JAN 3 1 1994

Predicting The Next Big Flood

Researchers Call Soil's Moisture Key To Forecasts

By William Allen

Post-Dispatch Science Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

US. AND BRITISH scientists have discovered an important missing link in weather forecasting: soil moisture.

The discovery is a major advance in predicting the kind of heavy, persistent rain that caused the Great Flood of 1993 and billions of dollars in damage across the Midwest.

Researchers now think water already present in the soil was responsible for about half the rain that fell in the region in July.

"The impact of this moisture is quite large, even staggering in some ways," said Alan K. Betts, an independent atmospheric scientist in Pittsford, Vt. Betts spoke in Nashville last week at the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society.

Before the flood, scientists already knew that, like a bathtub, saturated soil would leave additional rain nowhere to go but down the drain — into rivers.

What they suspected — but had not pinned down — was that such extremely wet soil produces rain in a self-sustaining, vicious cycle.

"Now we know that a lot of the rain was probably predictable," Betts said.

The National Weather Service will need to account for this cycle in its forecast models, said Frank Richards, a hydrologist with the agency in Silver Spring, Md.

Hunting A Suspect

The finding is important because scientists are searching for the cause of last year's flood. If they can find it, they may be able to make better long-range forecasts.

In the hunt for the suspect that caused the flood, some scientists have pointed their fingers at El Nino. This is a periodic change in sea surface temperature, atmospheric pressure and rainfall pattern in the tropical Pacific.

Last year's El Nino appeared to focus the jet stream over the Midwest, some scientists say. The jet stream, a high-altitude river of wind, brought many of the ingredients for a potent brew of storms. But other researchers urge caution in directly linking El Nino with the flood of '93.

Scientists have been reluctant to point a finger at soil moisture because forecasters had done little research on the issue.

Eyes On Mississippi

Enter the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment.

The project, conceived in 1990, seeks to understand better the way the atmosphere moves water and the sun's energy around. Better understanding will lead to better forecasts.

As part of the project, the scientists chose to look closely at the Mississippi River Basin.

That's how Betts and his colleagues in the United States and England found themselves studying the impact of moisture in the basin last July — a month of record rain. The work was funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA and done in cooperation with the European Weather Center, in England.

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE JAN 31 1994

DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

Crime Pays In FEMA Checks

"WE KNOW YOU are here illegally. Here's a check for \$2,000 so that you can continue to flout the law." That essentially is what the United States of America is telling illegal aliens when the Federal Emergency Management Agency hands out checks to illegal immigrants who rented homes damaged in the Northridge quake. These checks, likely to be followed by later checks, are not being issued by mistake. In order to facilitate payments to those here illegally, FEMA allows applicants who do not have Social Security numbers to provide some proof of residency, such as rent or utility receipts, to qualify for FEMA grants.

Open-Vault Policy

FEMA grants provide much more than emergency assistance. They pay for crisis counseling, temporary housing for 8 to 18 months, and rebuilding costs for homeowners. FEMA spokesman Carl Suchocki explained that legislation prohibiting discrimination mandates that illegal aliens receive all FEMA benefits, with the exception of Small Business Administration loans and Disaster Unemployment Assistance. People in America unlawfully get FEMA money because it's the law.

As FEMA set up shop in Los Angeles, the agency has worked to get out the word that illegals are welcome to apply for grants. Jose Monge, who heads up one of the new FEMA centers, told the Los Angeles Times that he declined a police offer to post officers outside his center lest a police presence scare anyone away. "We'd like people to feel like they were walking into a church," he said.



Amen — not. Few would suggest that the government deny illegal aliens shelter or food in the quake's devastating wake. It is only right to provide basic humanitarian aid to disaster victims. And as Federation for American Immigration Reform executive director Dan Stein noted as he passed through town Friday, it is understandable that there is fierce controversy over proposals to end medical benefits or public schooling for people here illegally. But paying long-term benefits and reconstruction money ought not to be a matter of controversy. It simply shouldn't happen. When FEMA gives checks to illegal aliens, it is paying them to stay in America and break the law.

Worse, because illegal immigrants don't have to produce Social Security numbers, it is easier for them to commit fraud than it is for citizens — say, Ollie North — to cheat the government.

Why Play by the Rules?

You, my friend, are paying for this subsidy for illegal behavior, whether Congress pays for earthquake assistance by cutting other programs, as it should, or via deficit spending, as it is likely to do. The White House has budgeted \$7.5 billion in emergency assistance — that is, \$30 for every man, woman and child in America — and the price tag could grow to \$30 billion. A caring Congress could at least throw in a provision to prohibit giving FEMA grants to illegals.

As Stein noted, "This is what is creating the public anxiety on immigration." It rankles when federal agencies operate outside federal law. If FEMA doesn't take U.S. immigration laws seriously, why should people who want to immigrate here honor those laws? If America is going to pay people to break immigration law, why even have an Immigration and Naturalization Service? Treating people who immigrate here illegally makes a mockery of those who have come here after scrupulously following INS rules.

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BURRELLE'S

When President Clinton was nominated for president, he declared he would run "in the name of all the people who do the work, pay the taxes, raise the kids and play by the rules." Giving FEMA grants to people here illegally, and setting up a system that is friendly to fraud, betrays rule-abiding Americans.

Stein spoke of Americans' "anxiety" on immigration. But also, not enforcing the law promotes anger and cynicism. Already the Los Angeles Department of Social Services has caught applicants for emergency food stamps, who need only show a driver's license and a declaration of damage, trying to get food stamps fraudulently. The Los Angeles Times reported that this fraud is "rampant." Interviewed Angelenos freely admitted that they suffered no damage, but were standing in line for emergency vouchers for which they were not entitled anyway. While it in no way excuses their greedy crime, you just know that some of those cheats justified their fraud by saying that illegal aliens were getting goodies too. When laws are not enforced, when other people cheat and get away with cheating, and others yet break the law and are rewarded, the social fabric tears.

Quake Damage Seen Setting U.S. Record

*Losses Likely to Surpass
\$30 Billion Toll of Andrew*

Reuter

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30—More than 200,000 victims have flooded relief offices with requests for aid, making the Los Angeles earthquake all but certain to surpass Hurricane Andrew as the nation's most costly natural disaster, officials said today.

As Los Angeles struggled to recover, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reported that it had received more aid applications in the first two weeks after the quake than in the first six months after Andrew, which struck in August 1992 and caused \$30 billion in losses.

"When something like this happens in the middle of the nation's second largest urban area, the magnitude of the damage is bound to be unlike anything we've seen before," said FEMA spokesman Brett Hansard.

Until now, federal officials had been reluctant to corroborate the estimate of Gov. Pete Wilson (R) that the quake would be more costly than the hurricane, but with 20,000 aid

"When something like this happens in the middle of the nation's second largest urban area, the magnitude of the damage is bound to be unlike anything we've seen before."

— Brett Hansard, FEMA spokesman

requests a day and damage reports mounting, they have made an assessment.

President Clinton has asked Congress to rush \$6.6 billion in disaster aid to Southern California, but state officials say it will barely scratch the surface of the area's rebuilding needs.

The magnitude 6.6 quake that rocked Los Angeles before dawn Jan. 17 killed 60 people, injured 8,000, collapsed freeways and destroyed more than 14,000 houses and apartments. At least 25,000 people were left homeless.

A series of aftershocks—one measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale—rumbled through the area early Saturday, buckling already weakened structures and sending some nervous residents scrambling back to shelters.

Scientists working to unlock the secrets of the earthquake have concluded that its epicenter, where the first seismic waves reach the surface, was in the town of Reseda, several miles south of Northridge, where previous calculations had placed the epicenter.

As the city struggles toward normalcy, authorities have begun cracking down on price gouging, food-stamp fraud and housing abuses that have plagued quake victims. Federal agents Saturday arrested five people and seized thousands of dollars in cash and food stamps in an operation suspected of illegally laundering coupons that were supposed to have gone to poor people under an emergency distribution.

Amid signs of rampant fraud, food-stamp centers at local welfare offices closed today for 24 hours in an effort to tighten up screening procedures. More than 50,000 people, many hungry and homeless, stood for hours outside county government offices last week in scenes reminiscent of the bread lines of the Depression.

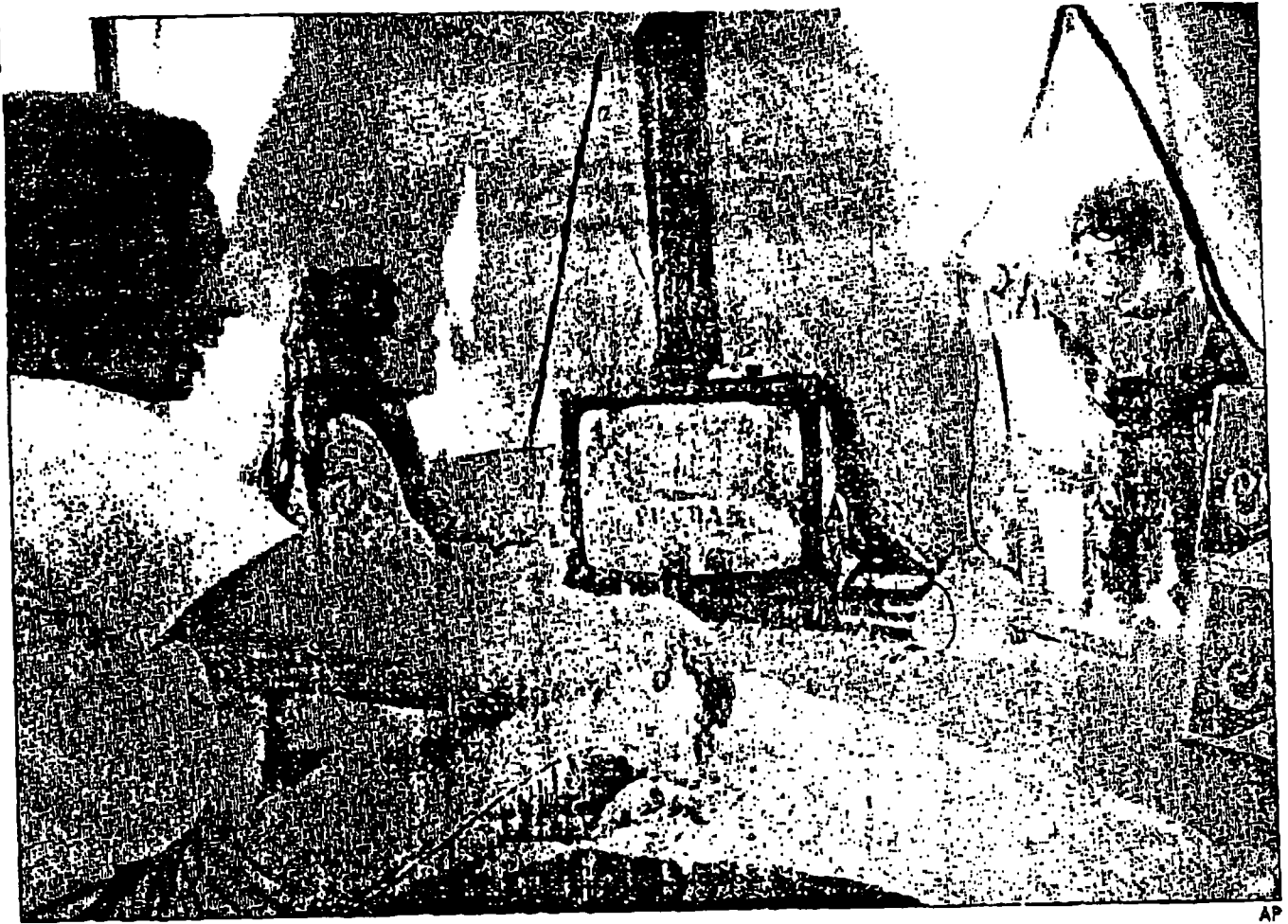
On the political front, the harmony that marked the initial response to the quake emergency has turned to bickering.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, who announced his candidacy Saturday for the Democratic nomination for governor, was quoted in newspaper interviews as accusing Wilson of "wimping out" for failing to ask for a tax increase to help rebuild quake-damaged areas.

Garamendi said that instead of asking the federal government to foot the entire bill, Californians should sacrifice by temporarily paying higher sales and gasoline taxes.

All across the region's fractured freeway system, engineers worked to open detours to cut down on the nightmarish commutes faced by motorists since the quake.

With the number of quake refugees dropping to about 500 overnight in six tent cities, National Guard troops were making plans to begin closing some of the encampments. The number of people still living in Red Cross shelters fell to fewer than 5,000.



Rene Zelaya peaks into his family's tent in Los Angeles as his father, Rene, and sister, Zayra, watch the Super Bowl on Sunday. The Zelayas moved to the tent after their apartment was damaged in the earthquake Jan. 17. AP

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DETROIT FREE PRESS

JAN 31 1994

QUAKE SHAKEDOWN *18*

A hand is okay, but high-risk areas must pay more

By most accounts, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has managed the relief effort in the California earthquake far better than it made its initial response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

FEMA seems better organized to get relief to the people who need it, and the Clinton administration came out of its chairs to see that the flow of relief and money to southern California was smooth and fast. That's wonderful, and we can empathize both with the gratitude of those whose lives have been disrupted and with the impatience of some who have had to wait in line despite FEMA's best efforts.

It would be unfair to expect a region or set of people to deal with a disaster of such proportions by themselves. These events — a killer hurricane, a 500-year flood of the Upper Mississippi, a major earthquake — are larger than life. But if 6.6 on the Richter scale is unfair to California, \$6.6 billion in federal money from outside what passes for budget discipline in Washington is unfair to taxpayers everywhere.

If you choose to live over an earthquake fault, or crowded closer to the coast than may be prudent in hurricane season, or on the 500-year floodplain, shouldn't you be encouraged or even required to provide for the possibility that the disaster you have courted actually might occur?

Should you always be encouraged to believe that your fellow citizens across the country will bail you out if the ultimate disaster happens? Is it right for the federal government to get increasingly efficient at delivering aid that surely has the effect of

convincing you that high-priced disaster insurance isn't something you need?

In the wake of this series of disasters, such questions are asked with increasing urgency and more compelling logic. When you hear about how much more disastrous the Really Big One could be in California, or how lousy code enforcement was in Florida in the path of Hurricane Andrew, you figure there must be a better way.

Those concerns have led to new attention to what has been called the Natural Disaster Protection Act. That measure would emphasize prevention or mitigation strategies, encourage the use of disaster insurance, and protect the national treasury from the commitment to making everyone whole. People in earthquake areas would pay a bit more for insurance, so that there is a pool to pay losses, rather than relying on FEMA, the president and Congress.

California is one big subsidy in many ways — water pirated and rerouted, hillsides built up in ways that flagrantly defy Mother Nature, cheeky indifference to the near-certainty of earthquake damage sooner or later. Why should the country mechanically go on providing the ultimate subsidy of open-ended disaster relief, there or anywhere else?

The country needs a better formula that pays for meeting a disaster before it happens and asks people who knowingly choose to take risks to recognize they must pay a price up front. There has to be a better way than asking FEMA to do a quicker job of organizing the lifeboat detail in areas where disaster is so thoroughly predictable.

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NewsExpress

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MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE JAN 31 1994

Disaster planning a must for people with disability

The recent earthquake that hit Los Angeles was scary, but only caused my patio door to slide open and one book to tumble from a shelf. I might have gone back to sleep, except the phone kept ringing.

We learned that only 30 miles north most people were experiencing terror and a real mess, if not devastation and tragedy. I feel guilty that my world is still in place. With the extent of the damage, it's beginning to sink in that this should be a wake-up call I pay attention to.

In my file on disaster preparedness, news clips from a University of Southern California study reported that earthquake planning and drills often fail to include the needs of the elderly and disabled population.

The study was done in 1989 after the San Francisco earthquake, and showed that disabled individuals were overly confident others would get to them quickly.

However, it found that these were the people frequently left to fend for themselves long after the quake ended. The researchers concluded that, because disabled individuals can't move about as easily during and after an earthquake, it is essential that their homes and workplaces be earthquake proof.

My friend David Hall, whose house is near the epicenter of the recent quake, is rethinking what he needs

Disability 26

Dianne B. Piastro

to do. A double amputee, David's wheelchair became useless when it was hurled out of reach and buried under debris. His girlfriend managed to find his prosthetic legs.

Good thing. Along with the house, his only ramped exit was also trashed by flying and falling objects — including the chimney. When it was safe, he got outside to turn off the gas. He's staying with friends and is very thankful.

From now on, David feels like sleeping in a sparsely furnished room with his glasses on and the prosthetic legs, a fire extinguisher, gas meter wrench and a survival pack next to the bed. He'll probably install a valve that automatically turns off gas meters in earthquakes and put emergency supplies in his car.

There is much we can do individually to prepare for earthquakes or other natural disasters. Resourceful self-reliance plans and emergency supplies, plus advance recruitment of neighbors and coworkers for help, are vital keys to our survival.

Here are some tips:

■ Be sure a neighbor has keys to your place. I also recommend contacting the local fire station and letting them know your situation.

■ If you use life-support equipment such as a respirator, kidney dialysis machine or other medical devices, utility companies will list and map your location to use during emergencies. Call the customer relations office of your utility for an application.

■ Get your own back-up power source if you can afford it. The same applies to electric wheelchair users, or they should have on hand extra batteries or a manual wheelchair.

■ Falling objects, such as mirrors, shelves, books, hanging plants or pictures and dishes from cupboards cause injuries and block exit paths. Secure objects and plan alternate escape routes.

■ If you rely on medications, catheters, glasses, hearing aid batteries, canes or other equipment, you should have extras on hand, along with your doctor's name, location and telephone. A supply of adult diapers may be handy in case toilets are out.

■ The Federal Emergency Management Agency's booklet "Preparedness for People with Disabilities" is an excellent planning resource for deaf, blind and hearing impaired

people, as well as wheelchair users. Though it is written for earthquakes, the advice also applies to preparing for other disasters.

■ Request publication FEMA 75 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, P.O. Box 70274, Washington, DC 20024; telephone: (202) 646-2648.

■ A great canvas survival backpack is available from the Betty Clooney Foundation for Persons with Brain Injury. It has everything but the \$300 cash that you're supposed to need: food and water (shelf life, five years), thermal blanket, gloves, radio and flashlight with batteries, whistle, first aid kit, cold pack, pen and pencil, plus ample room for items such as pet food, shoes, medications and more.

Prices include shipping: one-person pack at \$34.95; two-person pack at \$64.95; four-person pack at \$84.95. Order from: Betty Clooney Foundation, 695 E. 27th St., Signal Hill, CA 90806; telephone: (800) 934-4381. Keep it by the bed.

Send questions and information for possible use in this column to Dianne B. Piastro in care of the Star Tribune, 425 Portland Av., Minneapolis, MN 55408. To receive a personal reply, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS

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Reinventing Disaster Insurance

THE GOVERNMENT has two methods of helping victims cope with the cost of natural disasters, and to some extent they conflict. The first is to provide what have come to be large amounts of aid itself, directly; the second, to set up insurance systems. Insurance is often the fairer way of allocating costs. The problem is getting the people at risk to subscribe so long as they have good reason to think the government will bail them out anyway.

There are certain costs of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and the like that are plainly the government's to pay—restoring order, protecting public health, providing temporary shelter, repairing roads. But much of the cost when disasters strike has to do not with these public functions but with loss of private property—homes, businesses, crops. The insurance approach says the cost of restoring these should generally be borne by those at risk through premiums rather than by the public at large through taxes—and the government has both flood and crop insurance programs. But neither functions as it should, in part because the vulnerable groups have come to look to the government for aid instead.

You might think a Congress facing enormous spending constraints would want to discourage this, but not so. The emergency aid goes to people in genuine need; the supplemental appropriations though which it is generally given are almost the only times members can safely vote to spend money without being criticized. At the same time the bills are powerful locomotives to which the adroit can often attach a little not-quite-emergency aid for the folks back home. Presidents find it similarly advantageous to say yes, and awkward to say no. The Clinton administration is already preparing to spend some

\$7.5 billion to help hard-hit and vote-rich California recover from the earthquake of two weeks ago.

There is some contrary pressure, however. The government has already spent some \$22 billion on disaster aid in the last 10 years; that's a huge sum. Insurers have been hard hit by some recent disasters and are looking for a broader-based system. And in some cases environmentalists would like to see costs borne through insurance as well, as a disincentive to development of wetlands, coastlines and other fragile areas.

The California earthquake has produced some interest in Congress and the insurance industry in a new national disaster insurance system that would spread risk more broadly. In partial response to last year's Mississippi River valley floods, the House Banking Committee has also approved a bill that would bar the making of mortgage loans on any flood-plain property in the country lacking flood insurance. The bill would also deny federal flood insurance to fragile oceanfront property subject to erosion. But similar legislation failed in the Senate in the last Congress—the opposition is almost always more concentrated than is the support—and the measures' prospects are uncertain.

An important difference this time around could be the budget. Congress is under tight appropriations caps, and conservatives have begun to argue that these should apply to disaster funds no less than to other appropriations. Then the price of giving disaster aid would be having less to spend for other purposes. The harder it becomes to appropriate, the stronger the case may become for a sound insurance system. If the Clinton administration and its assorted critics in Congress really want to reinvent government, maybe this is another place to start.

200,000 request aid after quake

LOS ANGELES (Reuters)— More than 200,000 victims have flooded relief offices with requests for aid, making the Los Angeles earthquake all but certain to surpass Hurricane Andrew as the nation's costliest natural disaster, officials said yesterday.

As Los Angeles struggled to recover, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reported it had received more aid applications in the first two weeks since the quake struck than in the first six months after Andrew's onslaught.

The latest figures provided further evidence of what California Gov. Pete Wilson had already predicted — that total damages from the devastating quake would top the \$30 billion in losses South Florida sustained in 1992.

Until now, federal officials had been reluctant to corroborate the

governor's estimate, but with aid requests flowing in at a rate of 20,000 a day and damage reports mounting, they finally weighed in with an assessment.

President Clinton has asked Congress to rush \$6.6 billion in disaster aid to Southern California, but state officials say it will barely scratch the surface of the area's rebuilding needs.

The magnitude-6.6 quake that rocked Los Angeles before dawn Jan. 17 killed 60 people, injured 8,000, collapsed freeways and destroyed more than 14,000 houses and apartments. At least 25,000 people were left homeless.

A series of aftershocks — one measuring 5.0 — rumbled through the area early Saturday, buckling already weakened structures and sending some nervous residents

scrambling back to shelters.

Federal agents Saturday arrested 10 persons and seized thousands of dollars in cash and food stamps in an operation suspected of illegally laundering coupons that were supposed to have gone to poor people under an emergency distribution.

More than 50,000 people — many hungry and homeless — stood for hours outside county government offices last week in scenes reminiscent of the bread lines of the Great Depression.

As authorities investigated hundreds of complaints of price gouging, consumer activists fanned out to confront merchants accused of cheating residents.

They were demanding that storeowners sign agreements pledging to charge customers fairly or else face boycotts.

WASHINGTON POST

JAN 31 1994

Peña's Local-Politics Skills Evident in Quake Cleanup

By Don Phillips
Washington Post Staff Writer

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LOS ANGELES—Back in Washington, Transportation Secretary Federico Peña has never really been comfortable with the cumbersome processes of the federal government. He openly chafes at the time it takes to get anything done.

One of the last Cabinet members to be picked, Peña was never a "friend of Bill" like Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich and others who are close to President Clinton. On political pundits' "influential" lists he often ranks near the bottom.

But Peña is in his element here. A former mayor of Denver whose strengths include an intimate knowledge of how local government works, Peña has scored points in Southern California with politicians Democratic and Republican.

He was labeled a "hero" at a Senate hearing last week. California's two senators joined in the praise, with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) telling him, "If I had to rank you on a scale of 1 to 10, I would give you a 10 on this disaster."

The one-two Hispanic combo of Peña and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, both fluent in Spanish and both good on the stump, has left some Republicans worried that maybe there is more to the administration's agenda than just cleaning up the quake.

"This is your hardball politics," said one aide last week. "This is Political Science 101. Maybe the fight for California's electoral votes started ... Monday, Jan. 17, the day of the quake."

The skills that allow Peña to thrive here are the flip side of what frustrates him in Washington. Here, he can cut red tape, make quick decisions and invent the rules as he goes.

From the afternoon of the quake when he was the first Cabinet member on the scene, Peña has been a guy on the go: offering suggestions, cutting red tape, approving major projects on the spot, bringing factions together.

Within 12 hours of the quake, the Transportation Department had approved the first contract to clear away debris from a freeway interchange, and a contractor was on the scene with heavy equipment.

Before dawn one morning, Peña dropped into the City Hall crisis center with a suggestion: If commuters will be backed up in terminal traffic jams, why not give them transit advertisements to read?

"I thought it was a neat idea," said Jerry B. Baxter, director of District 7 of the California

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Transportation Department (Caltrans). Now auto-bound Angelinos fretting their way downtown from northside homes face signs trumpeting ride-sharing and commuter train schedules.

On the Wednesday after the quake, Peña, viewing the scene from a helicopter at a destroyed freeway interchange, expressed concern that only part of the damage was being cleared away. At a meeting the next day, he asked local officials if they needed more money or workers to expand the job, only to be told that he was ahead of the engineers who had not yet determined what needed to be torn down.

Part of Peña's local popularity is his ebullient personal style, which several officials contrasted with former transportation secretary Samuel K. Skinner, who oversaw cleanup of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Skinner came to help, but was often surrounded by attentive aides and always wore a suit. Peña projects a more easygoing, anti-bureaucratic image.

According to interviews with state and city politicians and transportation officials, Peña became what one called a "forceful facilitator," bringing factions together, getting them to agree on a "coherent" plan—which Mayor Richard Riordan (R) announced last week—to repair freeways and promote transit and ride-sharing, and sweeping aside federal red tape.

Transportation has traditionally generated turf wars in California, not just between highway and mass transit advocates, but between state and local agencies and within agencies.

"He has been good at getting the state, the city and the county together in a way that seems almost effortless," said Riordan, who credited Peña with facilitating the difficult process of getting everyone to work together.

As a former mayor, Peña believed that Riordan should head the transportation recovery effort—even though the two had recently clashed. Riordan had planned to siphon landing fees from Los Angeles International Airport to fund city needs such as adding police.

On Jan. 19, Peña and Riordan discussed recovery strategy at a private dinner, but their plan to have Riordan in charge was threatened at a later meeting when Caltrans appeared to be asserting control.

Peña did not protest during the meeting, sources said. But immediately afterward, he called Riordan aside and suggested they see Gov. Pete Wilson (R) right away.

"He just said, 'Let's do it now,'" Riordan said.

They called Wilson out of a Cabinet meeting. Within a half hour, Wilson agreed that Riordan should lead the recovery and promised to smooth things over with Caltrans.

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ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

JAN 31 1994

LA Fraud Watch ^{A³} Heats Up

Hundreds Of Investigators Track Housing, Food Costs

Compiled From News Services

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of federal investigators have been sent to Los Angeles to keep people from defrauding agencies that are helping earthquake victims, officials said Sunday.

The only serious problems so far have been in an emergency food stamp program. Five people were arrested Saturday for trying to buy food stamps from recipients at a discount.

Food stamp distribution was suspended Sunday while officials worked to implement a new three-day waiting system. The program was supposed to resume today.

The five people arrested for food stamp fraud, whose names were not released, were expected to be arraigned today in federal court. Authorities had previously said 10 people were arrested.

The Department of Agriculture will seek a felony charge of possession for unlawful sale of more than \$100 in food stamps, said Dave Dickson, a department inspector general. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Federal investigators also have been posted at all 18 relief centers to watch for racial discrimination in emergency housing, said Joe Shuldiner of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD investigators also will ensure that landlords don't raise rents as they did in Florida after Hurricane Andrew.

"We have not seen that done in L.A. to date, but I want to assure you that we are watching carefully," he said.

About 800 federal and state inspectors are in the field, and a new toll-free number for reporting fraud was set up.

In Northridge, the Red Cross opened a "super center," issuing vouchers for everything from food to rent. The center, housed in a giant white tent in the parking lot of the heavily damaged Northridge Fashion Center, has 70 caseworkers and expects to have 120 volunteers by midweek.

To fight fraud, the Red Cross cross-checked victim's addresses against a map of the damage zone and often sent inspectors to visit property.

Meanwhile, angered by complaints that

landlords have been using the quake to evict tenants illegally and to raise rents, city officials warned building owners that they would be dealt with harshly.

As authorities investigated hundreds of complaints of price gouging, consumer activists fanned out to confront merchants accused by residents of cheating them in the rush for supplies after the quake.

The activists were demanding that store owners sign agreements to charge customers

fairly or else face boycotts. People had reported paying up to \$10 for a gallon of milk.

In related developments:

■ The Federal Emergency Management Agency reported that it had received more aid applications in the first two weeks since the Jan. 17 quake than in the first six months after Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992.

■ The last boil-water warnings were lifted, and city water service restored, so many

restaurants served tap water for the first time since the quake. "[We're] just ecstatic to be able to operate normally today," said Julie Scholl, manager of Bakers Square Restaurant & Pie Shop in Granada Hills.

■ The population in 32 refugee shelters — buildings and encampments — was down to 4,800 from a peak of about 14,000.

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