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 SECRETARY OF
 AGRICULTURE

MIDWEST FLOOD RECOVERY

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE

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 DIRECTOR, FEDERAL
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FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT • COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENT • HEALTH • AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION • TRANSPORTATION • HOUSING

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For release: UPON RECEIPT (Mailed Dec. 6, 1993)

(Note to Editors: During the Mississippi River floods, hundreds of water quantity and quality measurements were made by U.S. Geological Survey engineers, scientists and technicians in the nine-state flood region. Some of these results will be described Monday, Dec. 6, at 8:30 a.m., in a symposium and a poster session at 1:30 p.m., both in the San Francisco Civic Auditorium at the upcoming meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 6-10, 1993. The following fact sheet summarizes the investigations.)

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLOOD OF 1993:

WATER FACTS

* As the nation's principal water-information agency, the USGS works with more than 1,000 cooperators to conduct scientific studies, and collects surface- and ground-water data at more than 45,000 sites across the nation, including 796 surface-water stations in the nine states that were affected by the flood.

* New all-time-high streamflow records were set at 42 USGS stream-gaging stations on 33 streams in 7 states. However, water levels would have been higher in many locations if not for the large volume of runoff retained in flood-control reservoirs. For example, analyses of flood flow in the Kansas River and the lower Missouri River indicate that reservoirs in those basins significantly reduced flooding. In fact, the peak flood discharges associated with a similar flood that occurred in 1951, before many of the reservoirs were built, were higher than the peak flows measured on these streams during the 1993 flood.

* Some of the new flow records on other streams are twice, or more than twice, the previous record. For example, the new record on the Raccoon River at Van Meter, Iowa, is 45.3 billion gallons per day (bgd), and breaks the previous record of 26.6 bgd, set in 1947. And the Des Moines River below the Raccoon River at Des Moines set a new flow record of 45.3 bgd, breaking the previous record of 37.7 bgd set in 1984.

* New all-time-high streamflow records were measured on streams in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Wisconsin, with many sites experiencing flows that exceeded the 100-year recurrence interval. (A flow with a 100-year recurrence interval is one that would only be exceeded on the long-term average of one year out of every 100. If a location has a 100-year flood it does not mean that it is safe from another flood for 99 years.)

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* Six new streamflow records were set on the main stem of the Mississippi River and seven were set on the Missouri River. Flow of the Mississippi at St. Louis was above flood stage for more than 10 weeks, exceeding all previous records set at the USGS stream-gaging station during the last 59 years of streamflow monitoring.

* At Miller City, Ill., USGS hydrologists collected flow, depth, and related hydrological data at the site of a failed agricultural levee. The levee failure resulted in the cutting of a side channel that bypassed 20 miles of a meander bend in the Mississippi River.

* Hydrologists at the USGS found surprisingly high concentrations of agricultural chemicals in the Mississippi River and some of its major tributaries, during and in the aftermath of the flooding. Despite the much larger volumes of flood water, concentrations of herbicides at sampling sites on the Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers were at, or near, the maximum levels detected in a previous study of the river during lower flows in 1991 and 1992.

* Loads, or volumes, of chemicals carried by the Mississippi River and some of its major tributaries were also high, with daily loads of some chemicals up by almost 50 percent over previous measurements. On several days when the flooding was at its peak, the USGS estimated that the Mississippi River at Thebes, Ill., was carrying more than 12,000 pounds of atrazine per day.

* Nitrate concentrations were similar to levels measured in previous years. Concentrations were less than 4 parts per million (ppm), well below the nitrate drinking water standard of 10 ppm.

* Channel erosion at bridge crossings is the leading cause of bridge failures in the United States. As a result of the flood, many bridges in the midwestern states are threatened. In cooperation with state transportation departments in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, USGS hydrologists and engineers measured channel erosion at several bridges on the Mississippi River during and after the flood.

* Bridge scour is measured to determine the impact of channel erosion on bridge safety and to predict the impact of future scouring. Underwater channel changes, flow velocities, sediment characteristics and bridge geometry are measured to develop models of channel responses to scouring at bridges.

* Flooding at the Highway 51 bridge over the Mississippi at Chester, Ill., deepened the channel, or caused it to be scoured out more than 25 feet, at the peak of the flood.

* The USGS worked with the National Weather Service to compile precipitation data from 10 NWS weather stations in the flood-affected states. The data indicate that a wet spring followed by record-breaking rains in June and July produced more than a year's worth of precipitation in seven months.

* The USGS is preparing a series of reports that document significant characteristics of the 1993 floods in the upper Mississippi River basin. The series includes flood discharges, precipitation, transport of agricultural chemicals, scour at selected bridges, suspended-sediment loads and concentrations at many sites, and effects of reservoirs on flood magnitude.

*** USGS ***

WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE REFORM, FAMILY SUPPORT AND INDEPENDENCE

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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Cover + 19 Page(s)

Date 12/7/93

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ACCESS # KCST208673

HEADLINE Flood threat diminishing in Midwest

Byline: JAMES KUHNHENN

Credit: Washington Correspondent

LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 5.7 Words: 779

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WASHINGTON - Conditions in the Midwest are still ripe for spring flooding, government scientists say, but the picture is brightening as rivers fall to normal levels and once-saturated earth begins to dry.

National Weather Service meteorologists said Tuesday they were far more upbeat than a few months ago about the prospects of flooding in the region. Nonetheless, they warned that even normal precipitation this spring could inundate farms and towns still recovering from last year's disastrous floods.

Among the favorable signs:

The Missouri River is flowing at normal levels.

The Mississippi River is below normal in St. Louis.

Soil measurements indicate that the ground is drying.

The 90-day weather outlook for the region calls for less-than-normal precipitation.

"So there are some encouraging things happening in terms of the lower Missouri and upper Mississippi basin," hydrometeorologist Frank Richards said at the weather service's annual year-end weather review.

The changes in the soil and rivers occurred because precipitation on the upper Missouri and Mississippi river basins was less than normal at the end of 1993. Meteorologists had expected higher than normal precipitation for the last three months of the year.

The prospects for flooding now hinge on the amount of snow and rain this winter and early spring.

"It depends on the timing," he said. "If they all come together, they're in trouble."

The predictions, crucial to farmers and homeowners who saw their land and possessions ruined by the summer floods, also carry weight in Washington, where ~~Midwest lawmakers~~ are trying to secure more money to repair nonfederal levees.

* "It was pretty clear then and clear now as well. If the
* levees remain down and unrepaired, we're at high risk for flooding," said David Ayres, an aide to Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri.

- * Many of the levees, particularly those not owned by the federal government, aren't expected to be repaired in time for the spring rains. Given that, nothing will stop high water from
- * flooding property adjacent to broken levees.

"Certainly, the situation is such that given significant precipitation, we could have significant flooding," said Lee Larson, a hydrologist at the National Weather Service's regional office in Kansas City. "Normal precipitation across the Midwest would cause minor flooding."

- * The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to repair 206 levees in the federal program, most of them in Missouri. Work has begun on
- * 80 levees. Corps spokesman Scott Saunders said all federal levees should at least have had temporary repairs by the start of the spring flooding season.

"We want to get all permanent repairs done by December of this year," he said.

- * The problem rests with the 482 nonfederal levees that Bond says need repairs.

Whether they get repaired is the crux of a debate about national water management policy. Some environmentalists have called for the creation of wetlands that would accommodate

- * floodwaters rather than building or repairing levees that channel floodwaters further down stream.

- * The Clinton administration has opposed full-scale repairs of nonfederal levees. But after considerable wrangling with Bond and Rep. Pat Danner of Missouri, the administration authorized \$18 million for nonfederal levee repairs.

- * Bond has estimated the cost of repairing the 482 nonfederal levees at \$100 million.

- * "If the politicians were in agreement and the money was there, they still wouldn't get many of the levees repaired in time," Larson said.

The flood was the dominant event in a year of extreme weather.

In their annual review, the weather service scientists summed up 1993 as the "Year of Water."

In addition to the flood, the nation saw the long-term drought in the Far West come to an end, as winter precipitation exceeded 600 percent of normal in Southern California and Arizona.

The "Storm of the Century" swept viciously through the East Coast in mid-March, with winds of up to 110 mph and widespread coastal flooding. At least 240 persons died, and damage was estimated at \$2 billion to \$6 billion.

But it was the flood, which left 50 persons dead and caused damage up to \$20 billion, that took center stage. It ranks as the most damaging flood the country has ever seen and is second only to Hurricane Andrew in disaster losses.

The flood was caused by an extraordinary confluence of factors - already wet fields, swollen rivers and a remarkably stable atmospheric weather pattern that continually pumped gulf moisture into the Midwest. Over a six-week period in June and July, the water that was dumped in the region equaled the volume of Lake Erie.

"This was a truly unique event," Richards said, "that I don't expect any of us to see again in our lifetimes."



Federal Emergency Management Agency

FAX NEWSEXRESS

DISASTER UPDATE

Office Of Emergency Information and Public Affairs (202) 646-4600
Morrie Goodman, Director

January 18, 1993, 6 p.m. EST

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 San Fernando Valley earthquake.

SITUATION

* Number of deaths reported: 34. Estimated number of injured: 1,825. In LA County, 5 hospitals have totally evacuated, 1 partially evacuated, and 3 others only accepting walk in patients; ten other hospitals are damaged but still functional. All Ventura Co. hospitals are on emergency power.

* Damage assessments by State and local agencies are continuing. Downed overpasses and freeway sections have substantially disrupted the highway network. Building collapses have occurred in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Numerous natural gas pipeline breaks were reported; ensuing explosions and fires have finally been brought under control. Widespread damage to water systems is reported, particularly in northern San Fernando and Simi Valley areas. Boil water orders were issued for Los Angeles City, but cancelled south of the Santa Monica basin. It was suggested that water be boiled anywhere in the impacted area.

* Local utilities report 400,000 city and 750,000 suburban customers are without electricity. Much of the outage resulted from circuit breakers tripping when the quake hit. Most generating stations also shut down automatically, but were quickly brought back on line. Neighboring utilities are sending extra work crews to assist with repairs.

* California Office of Emergency Services reports the Santa Felicia Dam was inspected but no structural problems found. The communities of Piru and Fillmore located below the dam were not evacuated as previously reported.

* The Presidential Disaster Declaration signed Monday afternoon, 1/17/94, provides 100 per cent funding of direct federal assistance for emergency work over the first 72 hours for Los Angeles County. Frank Kishton from FEMA Region IX headquarters in San Francisco was designated the Federal Coordinating Officer.

FEDERAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

* Aerial reconnaissance assets were tasked and have provided damage imagery and interpretation. FEMA's Geographic Information System is providing maps and other demographics about the impacted area.

-more-

(Disaster Update - Add ONE)

* The Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) Detachment from FEMA Region VIII in Denver has deployed 14 vehicles and 28 personnel to March AFB, CA.

* A Prime Power Assessment Team arrived in LA last night and is conducting emergency power assessments for deployment of military and/or commercial generators.

* The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Emergency Operations Center is operating around the clock, as is its South Pacific Division (San Francisco, CA), which includes the Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento Corps districts. Urban Search & Rescue-qualified Corps structural specialists nationwide have been placed on alert, and other personnel have been alerted for technical assistance missions.

* 22 American Red Cross shelters are open and two more will open shortly. Three Salvation Army shelters are open. Five mobile canteens are operating with more on standby.

* The Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) from San Bernadino is operational at Northridge Hospital. DMATs from San Diego, Albuquerque, Seattle, and the Public Health Service (PHS) are scheduled to arrive today, and others from Ft. Wayne, IN, Pensacola, and Maui are on alert if additional support is required.

* FEMA-supported Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces from Puget Sound and Phoenix are at March AFB with other Federal assets awaiting assignments. US&R Technical Support Team members have arrived in California, and additional Task Forces remain on alert. California-based Task Forces continue to support County and City fire and rescue resources.

* All voluntary agencies active in the disaster area need cash contributions to best meet the needs of disaster victims in the most timely and effective manner. Priority needs also include blankets, diapers, and personal comfort supplies. 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)

The next news media briefing at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 19, on the Mezzanine Level. It will be available by satellite on the following coordinates: C Band, Galaxy 7, Transponder 5.

***For media inquiries only*, the Pasadena Disaster Field Office 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 2:30 p.m. EST.**



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

FAX NEWSEXRESS

DISASTER UPDATE

Office Of Emergency Information and Public Affairs (202) 646-4600
Morrie Goodman, Director

January 20, 1993, 2:00 p.m. EST

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

- * Number of deaths: 46. Estimated number of injured: 3,762.
- * An aftershock of 5.1 magnitude occurred at 1:09 pm PST about 20 miles west of San Fernando. It was followed by another, magnitude 4.2, at 2:12 pm PST in the same area.
- * Governor Pete Wilson has estimated total earthquake damage to be between \$15 and \$30 million.
- * Approximately 50,000 customers remain without electricity, and 20,000 without natural gas. The AC/DC converter station at Sylmar sustained substantial damage and will require a year to repair, although it may be able to operate at reduced capacity in about a month. This will affect electrical operations not only in California, but also in Oregon and Washington.
- * The Los Angeles Police Department remains on tactical alert and at full mobilization. The dusk-to-dawn curfew in Los Angeles, extended yesterday to the cities of San Fernando, Santa Monica, Glendale and Burbank, remains in effect in these communities except for trucks making deliveries to the area.
- * On January 19, President Clinton added Orange and Ventura Counties to the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Los Angeles County signed on January 17. The declaration provides 100 percent funding for direct federal assistance costs for emergency work for the first 72 hours. The three counties are eligible for aid to disaster victims and local governments. FEMA has announced that \$100 million is available in the form of vouchers for temporary housing assistance.

FEDERAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- * FEMA Director James Lee Witt remains in Los Angeles at the request of President Clinton, consulting with HUD Secretary Cisneros and DOT Secretary Pena on housing and transportation needs. These officials met with the President during his visit to the area yesterday.
- * FEMA is opening eleven Disaster Application Centers (DACs) today to take aid applications from disaster victims.. Their hours are from 1pm - 7pm PST today, and from 9am - 7pm daily thereafter until further notice.

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* 6,910 applications had been processed via FEMA's 24-hour, toll-free teleregistration number (1-800-462-9029) through Jan. 19. Approximately 250 calls/hour are being processed. 336 lines will be operational by Friday, Jan. 21, with 80 more on-line by Monday. Additional staff and phone lines will be added as necessary.

* Additional MERS (Mobile Emergency Response System) detachments have been requested from FEMA's Region VI (Denton, TX) and Region X (Bothell, WA) to provide communications services to the DACs. Drivers are being prepositioned en route to enable the convoys to reach the disaster scene as quickly as possible. The FEMA Mobile Air Transportable Telecommunications System (MATTS) is being airlifted from Martinsburg, WV today by military aircraft.

* To date, 3,800 people have been sheltered at 26 American Red Cross and five Salvation Army shelters, and the need for more shelters and staffing is being assessed. The General Services Administration (GSA) is handling a request for 6,000 blankets for people camping outside shelters. An additional 19,000 people are camping in their damaged homes.

* To date, 20,000 meals have been served to displaced persons from 23 Red Cross, five Salvation Army and three Southern Baptist mobile feeding units. Today three truckloads of U.S. Department of Agriculture food will be delivered to Van Nuys airport at the request of the Red Cross. An inter-governmental food strategy meeting will take place at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) this afternoon.

* The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has begun distribution of bulk water supplies to ten water distribution centers. Fourteen 5,000-gallon tanker trucks will supply one million gallons per day for seven days to ten water distribution centers. The GSA will provide plastic water containers.

* More than 200 USACE structural specialists, engineers and technicians are awaiting mission assignments for disaster surveys and/or habitability inspections. One hundred of these have been placed on a 6-hour deployment readiness status.

* Personnel assigned to the DFO continue health monitoring to prevent outbreaks of disease, focusing on food safety and water safety issues. The Centers for Disease Control have been asked to assist the State with disease surveillance, with emphasis on the homeless and those in temporary shelters. Staff from FEMA Region IX are assessing what mental health services are needed.

* All voluntary agencies active in the disaster area say that cash contributions 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, and personal comfort supplies. Donated clothes are NOT needed. The FEMA donations hotline is 1-800-342-1100.

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The next *news media briefing* at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, January 20, on the Mezzanine Level. It will be available by satellite on the following coordinates: C Band, Galaxy 7, Transponder 3.

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 2:30 p.m. EST.



Federal Emergency Management Agency

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Office Of Emergency Information and Public Affairs (202) 646-4600
Morrie Goodman, Director

Media Advisory: Do not publish or broadcast

Media Inquiries: 818-405-7548

FEMA DIRECTOR WITT, SECRETARIES CISNEROS AND PENA TOUR DISASTER APPLICATION CENTER TODAY, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO NEWS MEDIA

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), joined by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros and Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena, will be available to the press and broadcast media at 1:30 p.m. PST Thursday, January 20, at the Northridge/Granada Hills Disaster Application Center, located at 8401 Winnetka Avenue, Northridge, CA.

Issues to be discussed include immediate needs of earthquake victims; the disaster application process; the HUD voucher program; temporary housing; the Emergency Food and Shelter Program; and long-term recovery programs that will be available.



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January 26, 1994

TO: Kathi Way
Domestic Policy, The White House

FROM: *Duh*
Richard W. Krimm
Associate Director
Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA

I am disappointed that I will not be able to attend the Steering Committee Meeting this morning due to my involvement in the Northridge earthquake response and recovery effort. Maria Vorel from our Congressional Relations Office will be attending.

Transmitted by: Linda



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fax NewsExpress

DISASTER UPDATE

Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs
Morrie Goodman, Director

(202) 646-4600

January 25, 1994 5:00 p.m. EST

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

- * **More than 2,500 aftershocks** have been recorded. Experts say they are following a normal pattern for California earthquakes. One or two more aftershocks of magnitude 4.5 or greater are expected in the next week.
- * **Casualty figures** remain the same: 57 confirmed dead; 9,158 injured, with 1,241 hospitalized.
- * **Inclement weather** has spurred efforts to move earthquake victims into shelters or temporary housing.
- * **The detailed damage assessment** is scheduled for completion by January 27. Three Damage Survey Report teams are inspecting damaged school buildings, and two are inspecting damaged hospitals. Latest figures show 36,577 residences were damaged or destroyed.
- * **LA Unified School District officials** announced that 759 schools would open today. 76 will remain closed, approximately 50 of them because of damage to utilities.

FEDERAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- * **Briefings to provide local governments with information** on the scope of Federal assistance programs and the application process are scheduled over the next three days from 10am-1pm at the following locations: Pasadena Civic Auditorium (Jan. 26); Culver City Civic Auditorium (Jan. 27); Simi Valley City Council Chambers (Jan. 28).
- * **Fifteen Disaster Application Centers (DACs)** are now open. A total of 17,649 applications for disaster assistance have been processed to date.
- * **An additional teleregistration facility at FEMA Headquarters** opened yesterday, operating from 10am-10pm. The 1-800-462-9029 teleregistration number (TDD: 1-800-462-7585) automatically accesses a total of eight centers staffed by 1,371 teleregistrars. To date, a total of 51,304 applications have been taken by phone.
- * **Today registrars will be sent to five parks** where the National Guard has set up tents for displaced persons to begin taking applications for disaster assistance.
- * **Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena** met with the Mayors of all 15 affected cities to develop strategies to assist transportation recovery efforts. He flew by helicopter over the freeways to inspect debris removal progress and observed the new temporary commuter train platforms set up for use during rush hours. The Secretary also participated in radio and TV talk shows to encourage commuters to use car pools, mass transit and ride sharing, and he urged employers to consider alternate or flex work schedules to ease the traffic situation.

-more-

* **FEMA's Recovery Channel**, a 24-hour satellite TV information service from the Disaster Field Office in Pasadena, is providing continuous, current information about response and recovery activities, including sources of assistance and consumer information. The *Recovery Channel* can be received by cable systems and commercial stations in Southern California as well as at the DACs and various shelter locations, and arrangements are underway to broadcast the Recovery Channel on other U.S. public access TV channels.

* **Activity at the Federal Mobilization Center** at March AFB continues at a high level. An Incident Management Team (IMT) is helping to manage the Center, which was set up to receive and distribute supplies. Family care packages (tent, stove, fire extinguisher and flashlight) have been assembled and loaded onto trucks awaiting distribution instructions.

* **Another IMT is working directly for FEMA.** It has been split into small teams that are assessing needs at the six temporary emergency shelter parks and reporting their findings to the Disaster Field Office twice daily.

* **American Red Cross paid and volunteer staff** currently on duty in the disaster area number 2,299. Red Cross mobile feeding units have served 162,510 meals to date. Red Cross warehouses in Atlanta and San Antonio recently shipped 5,800 cots and 21,000 blankets to augment Red Cross shelter needs.

* **FEMA's Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)** have begun providing services on a 24-hour basis. Veterans Administration nurses are being deployed today to support FEMA at selected DACs. Affected health centers in the impacted area are slowly becoming operational, however, and the demand for direct medical care is expected to slowly diminish.

* **An Environmental Protection Agency representative** at the Disaster Field Office is determining whether the debris disposal efforts will require EPA help in identifying disposal sites and whether there are any hazardous materials separation issues that need EPA assistance.

* **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, and personal comfort supplies. Donated clothes are **NOT** needed. Approximately 2,000 offers of donations have been accepted to date. 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.



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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

PULITZER PUBLISHING COMPANY

WASHINGTON BUREAU

January 18, 1994

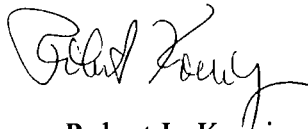
Ms. Kathi Way
Office of Domestic Policy
Old Executive Office Building

Dear Ms. Way:

Enclosed please find a copy of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's special section on a hydraulic engineer's report about the configuration of levees along the Mississippi River near St. Louis. I hope you find it useful during the administration's discussions on river management and floodplain management issues.

Thanks again for all your help over the last few months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Koenig", written in a cursive style.

Robert L. Koenig
Washington Correspondent

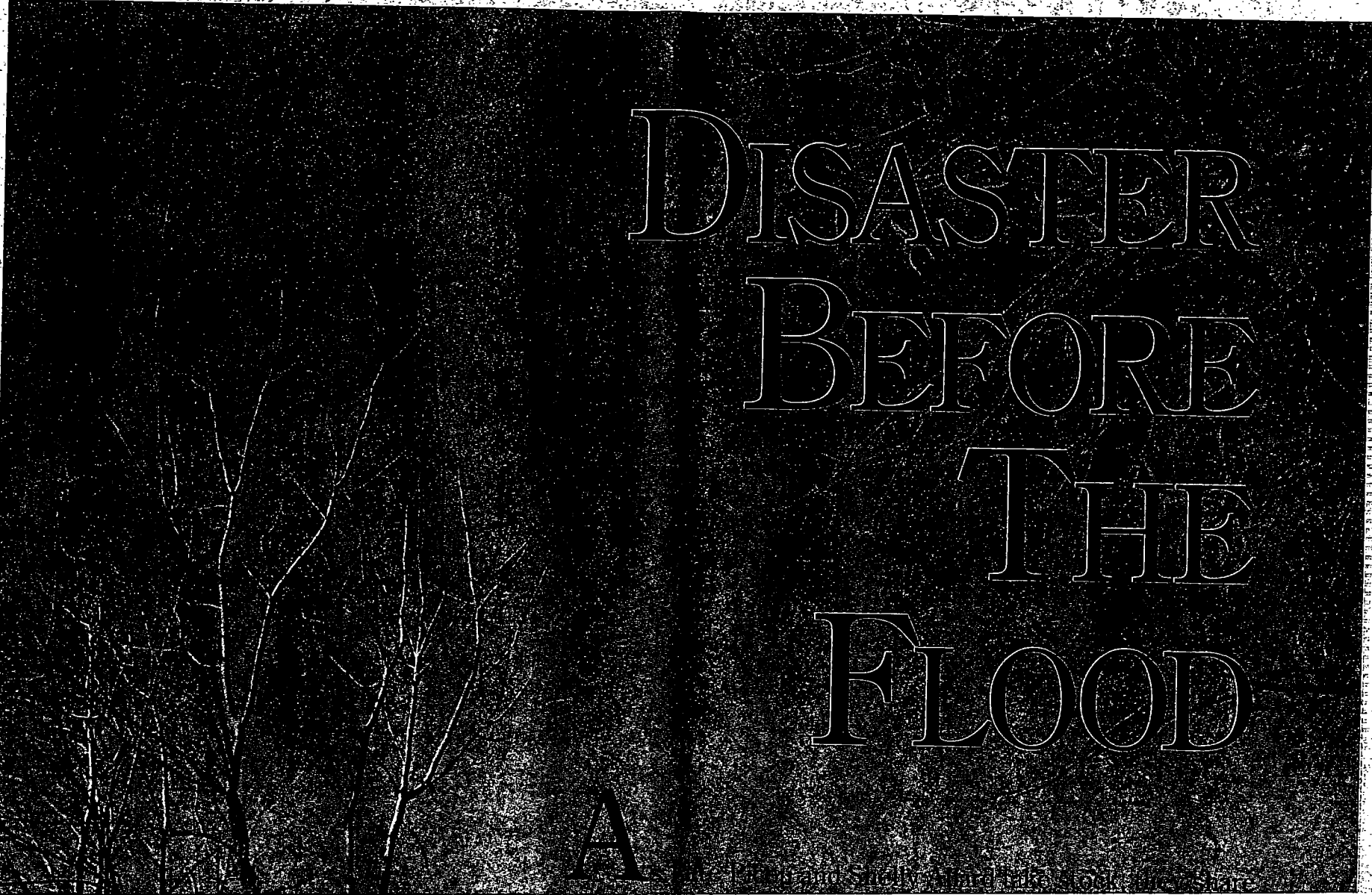
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A
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
SPECIAL REPORT



DISASTER BEFORE THE FLOOD

A

By [illegible] and [illegible]

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

NEWS ANALYSIS

SECTION B

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1993

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FLOOD OF '93: WHAT IF...



Water rushes over farm land on Aug. 1, moments after a breach in the Columbia, Ill. levee. The levee is the white line below the trees. The breach is left of center.

Jim Rackwitz/Post-Dispatch

THE FLOOD THAT WASN'T



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

Date: _____

To: Name Kathi Way

Organization White House Domestic Policy

Voice Phone 456-7777

FAX Phone 456-7028

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

From: ☐ MORRIE GOODMAN	☐ MORRIS BOONE
☐ MARVIN DAVIS	☐ MARTHA WHEELER
☐ DAVE MARTIN	☐ CARL SUCHOCKI
☐ BILL ZELLARS	☐ VERNICE HAMMOCK-EL
☐ KAREN KENNEDY	☐ KATHY LANDAU
☐ PAT BENNETT	☐ SEAN WHEELER
☐ PAIGE DARDEN	☐ JEFF POLLAK

WE ARE SENDING _____ PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE
FAX: (202) 646-4086

COMMENTS: _____

Volunteered Information

In early January, Scott appeared for sentencing before a judge in Quincy, Ill., after pleading guilty of a small-time burglary in Quincy on Aug. 12. He reached into a pickup

truck parked at a grocery store and took about \$100 worth of clothes from the vehicle.

At his sentencing, police said Scott began volunteering information about the levee when he was arrested for the theft, and most of the sentencing hearing dealt with the flood rather than the burglary.

In giving Scott 10 years for the theft, Circuit Judge Dennis Cashman said of Scott: "With his bare hands, he perhaps removed a few sandbags, but tore apart the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. . . . You have been a danger to everyone around here for far too long."

Motley says the judge and prosecutor in Illinois, both elected officials, turned Scott's sentencing on the burglary charge into a forum on the levee break to enhance their own standings in the public eye.

The prosecutor, Scott Walden, disagreed. He said the accusations about the levee were made to make sure that Scott received a stiff sen-

tence for the burglary. "We wanted to make sure he got the 10" year sentence, Walden said.

After his sentencing, Scott was extradited to Missouri to face the charge of causing a catastrophe, which Missouri law defines as knowingly causing an explosion, fire, flood or building collapse, or releasing poison, radioactive material, bacteria, virus or "other dangerous and difficult to confine force or substance."

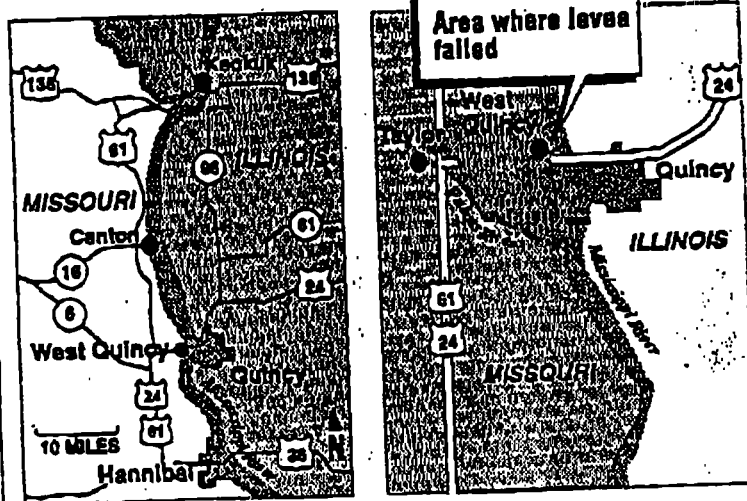
The floods in Missouri brought one other charge of causing a catastrophe. It was filed against Timothy Steinmann, 34, who is accused of hitting a levee with his 20-foot boat and hastening the flooding at West Alton, Mo.

Paul D'Agrosa, Steinmann's lawyer, says he thinks his client ran into the levee by accident while trying to avoid another boat. "The catastrophe was caused by God, not Steinmann," D'Agrosa said. Steinmann is free on \$50,000 bond.

THE REGISTER

FLOOD SCENE

A WIDE AREA around West Quincy, Mo., was flooded last summer when a Mississippi River levee ruptured.



'THEY'D LIKE TO SEE HIM HUNG'

The charge: Aiding and abetting the flood

James R. Scott is accused of intentionally breaching a Mississippi River levee.

By LARRY FRUHLING
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

West Quincy, Mo. — James R. Scott's lawyer is setting about on a daunting task: Finding some county in Missouri that wasn't battered by the great floods of 1993.

Scott is accused of a crime of enormous dimensions — unleashing a flood that broke hearts, wrecked farms and destroyed homes and businesses. His lawyer, Thomas Motley, says it will take some doing to find jurors in the flood-ravaged state who could give Scott a fair trial.

"Primarily the flood is our opponent," Motley said, adding that trying Scott in Marion County, where the crime is alleged to have occurred, is out of the question. "I'm sure they'd like to see him hung from the highest rafters," Motley said. "That's not to say he's guilty, but a lot of people worked hard to save that levee."

Marion County authorities allege that on the evening of July 16, Scott, who lives across the river near Quincy, Ill., caused a break in a Mississippi River levee, allowing the river to smash into West Quincy and inundate about 14,000 acres of fertile bottomlands on the Missouri side of the river.

As the river was roaring into the mile-long strip of businesses that

makes up the better part of West Quincy, Scott was telling a television reporter that he had made a valiant effort to save the levee. At times he seemed choked by his emotions.

"I seen a hole," he said. "I tried throwing sandbags and it didn't work."

But some of the things Scott said during the brief interview didn't add up to local law-enforcement officials, and Scott, a known arsonist, made himself an immediate suspect in the levee's destruction.

The 23-year-old Scott is now being held in a Missouri jail, unable to post a \$1 million bond. He is charged



Motley
Lawyer

under a rarely used state law against "causing a catastrophe," which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Earlier this month, in a supposedly unrelated courtroom proceeding in Illinois, a police detective said Scott had admitted removing a few sandbags from a depression in the levee. Another detective said he had been told that Scott didn't want his wife to be able to get back across the Mississippi from her job at a truck stop on the Missouri side of the river.

The flood Scott is accused of causing devastated a section of U.S. Highway 24 leading to the two bridges across the Mississippi that link Quincy and West Quincy. With the Quincy bridges useless and other bridges shut by the flood, there was no river crossing in the 200-mile stretch from Burlington, Ia., to St. Louis.

Besides all of the other damage the flood caused, including displacing 150 people whose homes were devastated, the torrent toppled fuel-storage tanks about one-quarter of a mile from the levee rupture. The leaking fuel caught fire, resulting in a spectacular blaze atop the fast-

moving waters.

To the people in West Quincy who fought for two weeks to save the levee, only to see the Mississippi wipe out their community, Scott is a pariah.

Law enforcement officials have said enough about what they believe was Scott's role in the levee break to convince many people of his involvement.

"I think everybody is in disbelief that somebody could do something that stupid," said Ralph Martin, who manages the service station where the fuel fire began. "At the same time, I'm thinking, what could you possibly do to him to make up for what he did to so many people?"

Martin added, "I think everybody would like to see him turned loose and let everybody know when."

Martin said thousands of people, including volunteers who drove from Indiana and Ohio, worked for more than two weeks to save the levee. Scott is accused of sabotaging. At the time of the breach, the river had fallen slightly from its highest level, and the section of the levee that broke was thought to be secure by levee district officials.

When the levee ruptured, thousands of people accustomed to a commute of a few minutes across the river bridges faced trips that took hours. The bridges at Quincy were closed for more than two months.

Even today, the 6-mile-wide floodplain on the Missouri side of the river looks like a mud-caked war zone. Some businesses have rebuilt and reopened, but some never will — including a truck-bed manufacturing plant that employed more than 300 workers. Most of the houses and trailers hit by the flood were damaged beyond redemption, and their occupants have had to move on.

C.G. McPike, whose pawn shop was wrecked by the flood, still is working to get back into business. McPike says attitudes toward Scott are harsh. "They'd like to hang him — not hang him, drown him," McPike said.

Finding a Site for Trial

Motley, Scott's lawyer, says he is sure he doesn't want his client tried in any county along the Missouri or Mississippi rivers, both of which caused enormous destruction last summer. Even in many counties away from the two great rivers, local creeks and rivers flooded.

Motley says he has obtained information from federal authorities indicating that about two dozen of Missouri's 114 counties were spared a

disaster declaration. But state officials say every county but one — Dunklin in extreme southeast Missouri — experienced serious flooding at some point in 1993.

Motley said he will just have to do the best he can in finding a fair-minded jury. "We can't take it out of Missouri," he said. "We're going to have to find some place in Missouri to try it."

Although Motley says the West Quincy levee may have broken regardless of what Scott did or didn't do, a judge in Illinois already has come close to pronouncing a guilty verdict against Scott, a part-time Burger King worker with a long record of arson accusations and convictions.

Des Moines Register Sunday Jan. 30, 1994 Page One

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

FEB 1 1994

Mayors seek federal aid to avoid more flooding

By ROY S. GUTTERMAN,
JOHN C. KUEHNER
and RONALD RUTTI
PLAIN DEALER REPORTERS

Officials in areas flooded by the Rocky and Chagrin rivers are hoping for some protection against a recurrence.

Eastlake Mayor Dan DiLiberto, enlisting the help of Rep. Eric D. Fingerhut, D-19, plans to use last week's flood to illustrate the importance of federal assistance in dredging rivers, even those that get little commercial boat traffic.

The Army Corps of Engineers ignores non-industrial, or "recreational," rivers such as the Chagrin, Rocky and Vermilion, Fingerhut said yesterday after touring some of Eastlake's hard-hit neighborhoods.

"The Army Corps has not listed the Chagrin as reasonable (for dredging) because it sees no economic impact," Fingerhut said. "This is an example of a problem we've had all along the eastern shore of Lake Erie."

Lake County commissioners on Friday declared a state of emergency in Eastlake, qualifying the city for state disaster aid.

Lakewood and Rocky River officials also hope to set up a meeting with the Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers soon.

"We will be trying for a meeting in the next couple of days," Lakewood Mayor David Harbarger said. "We've got to look at it to see if there is anything we can do. I don't know that there are any answers."

Representatives of a federal disaster services agency are expected to tour flood-damaged areas of Lakewood and Rocky River today to determine if the area is eligible for aid.

The visit by officials of the Federal Emergency Management Association is being arranged by the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Office.

FEMA officials also are expected to tour the eastern shore, though no date is set.

Fingerhut said the corps' cost-benefit analysis of non-commercial rivers ignores the economic impact of recreational industries such as marinas, boating, houses and other riverside businesses. The cost analysis also ignores flood damage.

"The recreational boat industry is one of the most significant economies in the area," he said. "We've been trying to get the Army Corps to recognize this."

The Eastlake Port Authority annually dredges the river to remove silt.

A proper dredging could cost more than \$100,000, DiLiberto said. But sparse city funds force Eastlake to spend — and dredge — less.

That is why DiLiberto and Fingerhut want the federal government to help cities such as Eastlake.

The Corps of Engineers dredges the Cuyahoga and Grand rivers.

Residents on both sides of the

Rocky River have returned to their homes as colder weather eased the threat of flooding. In many cases, residents met with insurance adjusters.

Rocky River rubbish trucks patrolled the area, picking up what residents considered unsalvageable. City inspectors also were handy in case people decided to replace hot-water tanks and other appliances.

A lot of the cleanup work in Lakewood remains to be done. Harbarger said insurance adjusters must finish up at homes before city work crews can help.

"There are big pieces of ice, 14 inches thick, on front yards," he said.

Preliminary estimates of property damage in Eastlake set it at nearly \$1 million, while city emergency and cleanup costs might end up costing between \$100,000 and \$150,000, DiLiberto said.

"We dodged a bullet," DiLiberto said. "We had some damage, but not as bad as it could have been. We were worried it was going to hit, and hit hard. We got lucky. It came in, blocked up, and left."

Willoughby Hills officials were still compiling figures yesterday, Mayor John J. Zur Jr. said.

Meanwhile, Grand River water levels stabilized yesterday.

Coast Guard cutter Neah Bay broke through the mouth of the Grand River at Fairport Harbor on Sunday and cut a channel through the ice to give water an outlet into Lake Erie.

BURRELLE'S

NEWS EXPRESS



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
COORDINATING OFFICE
Fax NewsExpress**

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#116
January 31, 1994**

Media Contacts:

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

NEWS BRIEFING

WHEN: Tuesday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.

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

PARTICIPANTS:

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

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

**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)**

**Tim Coyle, Director
California Department of Housing and
Community Development**

ISSUES:

- * Housing issues**
- * Emergency food stamp program**
- * Earthquake concerns of the day**
- * Question & answer session**
- * One-on-one interviews**

TV STATIONS:

**The briefings will be made available live on the following satellites:
KU Band SBS-5, Transponder 4; C-Band Galaxy 6, Transponder 7.**

-end-

**Voluntary Agencies Praised
Add One**

This includes hot meals, flashlights, new clothes, personal care kits, diapers, and cleaning supplies. In addition, 13,835 earthquake survivors have been sheltered at Salvation Army facilities and managed park sites throughout the area.

Disaster assistance provided by other voluntary organizations ranges from building and repair offered by the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, to pastoral care and training supplied by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), to the medical triage team offered by the Seventh Day Adventist Community Services, to the six feeding units maintained by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other volunteer groups active in earthquake relief activities in Southern California include the following:

- * Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT)**
- * Catholic Charities, USA**
- * Christian Disaster Relief**
- * Church of the Brethren**
- * Church World Services**
- * Cooperative Disaster Child Care**
- * El Rescate**
- * Friends of Disaster Service**
- * Heal the World**
- * Jewish Federation Council of Greater LA**
- * Los Angeles Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Local Board**
- * Los Angeles Multi-Purpose Program**
- * Mennonite Disaster Services**
- * Points of Light Foundation**
- * Presbyterian Church (USA)**
- * St. Vincent DePaul Society**
- * Second Harvest**
- * Shelter Partnership**
- * Southern California Ecumenical Council**
- * Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition**
- * Starting Over**
- * United Way of Los Angeles**
- * West Angeles Community Development Corporation**
- * World Vision**

Persons with immediate needs may access these services through the American Red Cross hotline, 213-739-4543. For more information, California residents may call the FEMA disaster information hotline at 1-800-525-0321.

-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#115

January 31, 1994

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

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

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PRAISED: EARTHQUAKE HELP STILL AVAILABLE

Approximately 30 voluntary organizations are currently providing disaster relief activities to survivors of the Northridge earthquake that struck Southern California in the early morning hours of January 17.

"All assistance provided by voluntary agencies in the initial response to the earthquake is an outright gift to individual and family survivors," said Federal Coordinating Officer Frank Kishton, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), praising the efforts of these groups.

Director Richard Andrews, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) added, "While the public is aware of the vital role the American Red Cross and other agencies play in providing emergency assistance during a disaster, people often don't realize that these organizations continue to help long after the emergency phase has passed."

The Southern California Chapter of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) is holding weekly voluntary agency coordination meetings. NVOAD consists of 20 voluntary organizations which provide persons affected by disaster with shelter, food, clothing and other programs that offer the extra assistance often not found through any other source.

The American Red Cross is currently dispensing emergency food, clothing, health, and medical aid for earthquake victims at 17 service centers and 29 shelters throughout the disaster area. They have provided recovery assistance to more than 7,100 families, health services to 2,265 people, and crisis counseling to 8,455. Since the relief operation began, they have served more than 640,000 meals, and 114 Red Cross mobile feeding vehicles have distributed snacks and drinks to emergency workers and those affected by the quake.

Salvation Army officers and cadets have contributed more than 61,105 volunteer hours to earthquake relief efforts and have provided 741,650 instances of service to individuals.

--more--



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FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
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Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#114
January 31, 1994**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

Media Contacts:

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

**ATTENTION EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS: HOUSING REFERRALS AVAILABLE
AND ATTENTION LANDLORDS: AVAILABLE HOUSING WANTED**

A free, housing referral service is available to disaster victims through the Earthquake Relief Project of the Metropolitan Housing Bank, a nonprofit organization created following the Northridge earthquake. The magnitude 6.6 quake on January 17 damaged or destroyed the dwellings of thousands of Southern Californians.

Landlords and property owners with housing vacancies in the Metropolitan Los Angeles area, including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura are requested to contact the housing bank to place their properties on a master list that is provided to disaster relief agencies. The listing service is also free of charge.

"We are interested in all kinds of residential properties, including houses, apartments, trailers, and mobile homes," said Mickey Fox, project co-coordinator.

The housing bank is totally staffed by volunteers. Persons interested in volunteering their services are invited to sign up.

Earthquake disaster victims, landlords, and property owners as well as potential volunteers may contact:

**Metropolitan Housing Bank
Earthquake Relief Project
536 W. Arrow Highway, Suite 208
(southwest corner of Hollenbeck and Arrow)
Covina, CA 91722
Toll free: 1-800-705-2392**

--end--

Daily News Summary
Add One

TWO ADDITIONAL DISASTER APPLICATION CENTERS OPEN

Two additional Disaster Application Centers (DACs) opened today (January 31) to serve earthquake disaster victims. The new facilities are located in tents at 18000 Chatsworth, Northridge and at William S. Hart Park (the Train Station), 24151 N. Newhall Ave., Newhall. This brings to 20 the number of DACs operating. They are open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. In addition, 14 mobile DACs continue to serve 30 locations.

Mass Care: Three of five temporary emergency park shelters are closed. Only 415 people are sheltered in the park refuges, which are being managed by the Salvation Army on behalf of the state and local government. The American Red Cross is providing meals at the temporary refuges. Twenty-nine Red Cross shelters remain open with a population of 4,558. Total occupancy for both the park refuges and the Red Cross shelters continues to decline.

Food: Five individuals involved in food stamp fraud have been arrested, according to Bill Ludwig, Food and Nutrition Service administrator for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Emergency Food Stamp Program sites re-open today (Jan. 31) at 16 locations after being closed Sunday.

Transportation: Caltrans reports that the number one lane on Westbound 134 Freeway at the 101 Freeway interchange is closed. Caltrans hopes to have the lane open by the Monday, January 31, evening commute.

Public Works and Engineering: All potable water systems are back in operation in Los Angeles city, though several individual residents are still without potable water. Approximately 15,000 Department of Water and Power customers in Granada Hills remain under the "boil water" order. The Army Corps of Engineers reinspected their dams in the area after the January 29 aftershock. No damage was noted.

--end--



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

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#113
January 31, 1994**

Media Contacts:

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

Daily News Summary

**SUMMARY OF FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS**

Calls to state-federal disaster information hotline: 61,294

Registrations for state-federal assistance:

At Disaster Application Center	62,680
Via toll-free registration	153,218
Total	215,898

Temporary housing checks issued	16,000
Total value of checks issued	\$59,600,451

Small Business Administration	
Loans approved	550
Total value of SBA loans	\$16,779,800

NOTE TO MEDIA

Earthquake daily news briefings continue to be conducted at the FEMA/State Disaster Field Office at 245 S. Robles Ave., Pasadena. Discussing disaster concerns, status reports, and answering questions at the 10 a.m. session are FEMA Director James Lee Witt and Director Richard Andrews, of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Call (818) 405-7548 for further details.

--more--



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL
COORDINATING OFFICE
Fax NewsExpress**

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#112
January 31, 1994**

Media Contacts:

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

NEWS BRIEFING

WHEN/WHERE: Monday, January 31

**1:00 p.m. NORTHRIDGE DAC
Coast Federal Bank Building
18000 Chatsworth Street
Northridge**

**3:45 p.m. NEWHALL DAC
William S. Hart Park
(the train station)
24151 N. Newhall Avenue
Newhall**

**WHO: Dr. Richard Andrews, Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services**

**PURPOSE: To assess disaster operations at the new
DACs.**

**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
COORDINATING OFFICE
Fax NewsExpress**

150 East Colorado Boulevard

Pasadena, CA 91101

**O E S
CALIFORNIA**

**FEMA-DR-1008-CA-PR#105S
3^o de enero de 1994**

*California Office of
Emergency Services*

**CONTACTO DE PRENSA: FEMA: (818) 405-7455
OES: (818) 405-7408**

**PERSONAS CITADAS EN EL CENTRO DE SOLICITUD PARA ASISTENCIA
POR DESASTRE DE NORTHRIDGE/GRANADA**

PUEDEN ACUDIR A LOS CENTROS ANTES DE LA CITA

PASADENA — Cualquier persona que tenga una cita para solicitar asistencia, local estatal y federal, en el Centro de Solicitud para Asistencia por Desastre de Northridge/Granada Hills, ya no tiene que esperar hasta el día de la cita. Estas personas pueden acudir a los "Centros" antes del día de la cita.

El "Centro" de Northridge/Granada Hills se encuentra en:

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

El segundo Centro de Solicitud para Asistencia por Desastre se encuentra en:

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

El horario diario de los "Centros" es de 9 a.m. a 7 p.m.

-fin-

VA psychologists and social workers with expertise in treating post-traumatic stress disorder

also are staffing an information and crisis center in West Los Angeles.

VA also has implemented a number of measures to provide relief or protection to VA, benefit recipients, GI homeowners and insured veterans affected by the earthquake.

**CONTACT: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public Affairs,
202-535-8300**

VA SEEKS FUNDS FOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF, CONTINUES COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 /PRNewswire/ -- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking supplemental funding to cope with the devastating effects of the recent earthquake in Southern California.

In a briefing today before the House Committee on Appropriations, VA Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober said: "Secretary Brown and I are extremely proud of our employees who did a superb job of safely evacuating patients, while risking their own lives. In the aftermath of the earthquake, we are working to return to normalcy and continue to provide medical care and other services to veterans affected by the quake," Gober added.

VA is requesting a fiscal year 1994 supplemental of \$21 million and will use \$7 million in unobligated funds available from the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1992. These funds will cover the continued provision of medical care services, as well as the services being provided by veterans benefits counselors and psychologists at FEMA disaster assistance centers who are responding to veterans' concerns. Funds also will permit VA staff to assess the damage of VA-guaranteed homes and to provide vocational rehabilitation subsistence loans to eligible veterans.

VA Secretary Jesse Brown had visited Southern California within days of the earthquake to assess personally the damage to VA facilities. A VA team of construction experts also visited the area and determined that not only did the Sepulveda hospital sustain extensive damage, the mechanical penthouse of the main hospital building at the west Los Angeles VA Medical Center also was damaged. In addition, repairs will be required at the Los Angeles Outpatient Clinic for water damage. VA requirements beyond the \$28 million will be considered for funding from the \$400 million contingency amount included in the administration's request.

The department currently is playing a vital role in providing assistance to the communities most affected by the earthquake. Two VA mobile health clinics deployed to Southern California by Brown are treating an average of 60 non-veteran patients per day. VA medical personnel are located at each of FEMA's 18 disaster application centers, and VA nurses from across the country have volunteered to assist at private facilities in need of medical volunteers.

President Clinton has already requested \$6.6 billion in emergency assistance as part of a supplemental appropriation for the fiscal 1994 budget. California officials say this amount will barely scratch the surface of what is needed.

In the Los Angeles areas, several hundred Federal Emergency Management Agency investigators were in the field Monday checking for multiple food stamp applications and verifying occupancy and ownership of damaged dwellings, as well as assessing the cost of repairing or replacing the 14,000 houses and apartments condemned as unsafe by building inspectors.

FEMA director James Lee Witt said more than 208,000 applications for disaster assistance had been received in the first two weeks after the deadly quake -- more than in the first six months following Hurricane Andrew's 1992 onslaught on southern Florida.

The latest figures bolster California Governor Pete Wilson's assessment that total damages from the devastating quake would top the \$30 billion in losses south Florida sustained in 1992.

REUTER

OFFICIALS CLAMP DOWN ON EARTHQUAKE FRAUD

By Michael Miller

LOS ANGELES, Jan 31 (Reuter) - Five men faced charges in federal court Monday of laundering emergency food stamps as officials launched a crackdown on what they say was rampant stamps fraud after the Los Angeles earthquake.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the emergency food voucher programme, has sent its acting inspector general to head a special probe into the alleged widespread fraud.

The five men, arrested late Saturday, are suspected of illegally laundering food stamps intended to help the poor overcome the devastating effects of the January 17 quake, which killed 60 people and injured more than 8,000.

When taken into custody the men had about \$5,000 in food stamps and \$2,500 in cash, said USDA regional inspector general Dave Dickson.

If convicted, the men -- suspected of being "runners" for a much larger fraud ring -- face up to five years in prison and fines of \$250,000 each.

Authorities believe the ring operates through a series of "runners" who stand outside voucher distribution centres, offering recipients cash for the stamps at half their face value.

The vouchers are then sold to the store owner for slightly less than face value and the store owner redeems them with the government for full face value.

Voucher distribution centres reopened Monday morning after closing Saturday so workers could catch up with a torrent of applications. More than 112,000 applications had been received by Saturday night.

The USDA has introduced a 72-hour waiting period, however, so that applications could be more thoroughly checked.

A previous 24-hour turnaround between applying for stamps and receiving them, intended to get food to the needy quickly, led to abuses such as multiple applications and "padding" the size of families by adding fictitious members.

In another quake-related development, the White House planned to request \$1.5 billion more from Congress in federal emergency assistance for victims of a California earthquake, a senior official said Monday.

White House Budget Director Leon Panetta told reporters the request for \$1.5 billion more would likely be sent to Congress late Monday.

"The guide provides comprehensive information which organizes and simplifies the available steps to recovery," said Dr. Herbert L. Carter, president of United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

In addition to Salvation Army sites, the guide is also available at the Van Nuys United Way office at 6851 Lennox Ave. in Van Nuys.

The Interfaith Hunger Coalition is a non-profit organization that provides leadership on hunger issues through education and advocacy. Comprising more than 2,000 individuals and community organizations, the Coalition acts as the regionwide voice on the issues affecting hungry persons.

IHC offers training, technical assistance, and extensive publications on government benefit programs for the more than 700 community groups and social service organizations feeding the hungry in Southern California. For general information call 213/913-7333.

**CONTACT: Wills Communications, Hermosa Beach, Calif.
Terry Wills, 310/379-7347**

JAN 31,1994 16:34 PACIFIC 19:34 EASTERN

(BW)(INTERFAITH-HUNGER-COALITION) Free "how to" guide to disaster assistance available at Salvation Army sites throughout L.A. County; "How to Get Food, Disaster Assistance, & Money" offers aid to quake victims

LOS ANGELES--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 31, 1994--A simple "how to" get disaster relief guide is now available free-of-charge to quake victims and low-income individuals at Salvation Army sites throughout Los Angeles County.

The 56-page "How to Get Food, Disaster Assistance, & Money" guide is the Los Angeles Area Earthquake Edition of the People's Guide to Welfare, Health, and Other Services in Los Angeles County.

It was released in response to the increasing need for assistance and information following the Los Angeles Area Earthquake by the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition (IHC) in partnership with United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Comic Relief, Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Citizens Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Los Angeles Emergency Food and Shelter Program Local Board.

This "People's Guide" is available in both English and Spanish as a resource for casework, advocacy and self-help information. The special Los Angeles Area Earthquake Edition provides quake victims with eight pages of practical information on how to get food, income, housing, health care, legal services and other benefits.

It also provides "easy to understand" details on available assistance to low-income individuals who need help throughout the year following disasters of a personal nature.

"Many people do not know where to turn or what help is available," said Elizabeth Riley, executive director of IHC. "Our goal is to get this guide into the hands of the thousands of people that need immediate assistance as a result of the quake."

"How to Get Food, Disaster Assistance, & Money," dedicated to the memory of four-year-old Amy Tyre-Vigil, the youngest victim of the quake, is currently being distributed in large quantities to Disaster Assistance Centers (DACS), Red Cross Shelters, churches, hospital social workers, counselors, legal advocates, school nurses and more than 900 Los Angeles-area assistance agencies.

The first-annual "People's Guide" was published in 1977. Throughout its 17 years, the People's guide has been funded by federal, state and local governments, and by religious organizations. To date, more than one million copies have been distributed to low-income people, organizations, hospitals, churches, synagogues, libraries and institutions.

TOLL:

_40,000 structures damaged.

_60 people dead.

_1,400 patients admitted to hospitals, more than 9,000 injured.

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Earthquake aftermath summary

LOS ANGELES (UPI) _ A summary of developments in the aftermath of Southern California earthquake as of 5 p.m. PST Monday.

FRAUD:

_ Officials implement 72-hour waiting period for emergency food stamps to cut down on fraudulent applications

_ County has issued \$25.3 million in food stamps for quake victims after processing 110,765 applications

GOVERNMENT AID:

_ 215,898 applications for disaster aid since quake

_ Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued \$59.6 million in temporary housing assistance to 16,000 applicants

_ Small Business Administration approves 550 disaster-related home and business loans totaling \$16.7 million

_ The Clinton administration will ask Congress for another "\$1.5 billion-plus" in federal assistance for Southern California

NON-GOVERNMENT AID:

_ Population in Red Cross shelters drops to 5,000; some 20,000 victims stayed in shelters in days after quake

_ 850 quake-related homeless reported in three tent cities throughout the cities

_ Teamsters donate and deliver more than 250,000 lbs. of food to Red Cross

_ Japanese firms in Southern California pledged nearly \$1.8 million in earthquake relief

TRANSPORTATION:

_ Detour opens around the Golden State Freeway restoring the main north-south artery's capacity to 40 percent

_ Two new lanes open on north and southbound lanes of Antelope Valley (14) Freeway.

_ Four new Metrolink commuter train stations in northern L.A. County

SERVICES:

_ 14 quake-damaged schools reopen in the San Fernando Valley

REAL ESTATE:

_ About 6,600 buildings, which include more than 21,000 dwelling units, have been declared unsafe.

_ Experts say foreclosures of damaged buildings may soar in coming months because of high cost of rebuilding

Stratton said damage estimates for the city of 100,000 run to \$200 million. Simi Valley's two federal disaster relief centers have accepted more than 4,300 requests for assistance.

One center is at the Reagan library, perched in the hills above the grassy country clubs, Spanish-tiled roofs, stucco buildings and berry stands. There, hardly a campaign button was knocked out of place.

A day before that center opened, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency himself arrived to do a little damage control.

"Simi Valley has not been forgotten," James Lee Witt told residents applying for aid at the Sycamore Drive Community Center.

"I think that's really beautiful that he came out and showed interest in us in Simi Valley," Maria Freeman said after shaking his hand. "We need all the help we can get."

AP-DS-02-01-94 0120EST

Residents Take to Calling Mobile Home Park 'Shaky Acres'
By LORI DODGE ROSE

Associated Press Writer

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) _ So many dwellings in the Simi Country mobile home park bounced off their foundations during the earthquake that residents are starting to call the place Shaky Acres.

In Lee Fout's double-wide coach, the entire contents of her curio cabinet and nearly every cup and plate shattered during the quake Jan. 17.

"It feels like you're a marble in a cracker box and someone's going like this," she said, shaking her hand furiously. "All I could do was listen to everything crash and break."

The San Fernando Valley wasn't the only place that took a beating from the quake. An estimated 1,200 homes and businesses were damaged in this valley in Ventura County, Mayor Greg Stratton said.

But for a while it seemed as if the rest of the world would never notice.

"We've been ignored," Fout said. "Everyone was focusing on the 'Valley' people and all the Latinos who are sleeping in the parks. They thought that's where everything was."

One look around the well-tended Simi Country park says otherwise.

Porches decked with hummingbird feeders and flower planters were wrenched awry as the shifting earth jolted home after home some 3 feet west. Most toppled off their foundations, the jacks that once supported them punching through their floors.

Broken glass and pottery covered the floor of Fout's two-bedroom mobile home, which she shares with a roommate and two schnauzers. Vodka and rum ran together with peanut oil and vinegar into a stinky, sticky mess.

Hers is one of the most visibly damaged homes in this community known as the site of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the first Rodney King police beating trial.

There are no collapsed buildings and freeways here. And so the TV cameras, the reporters and even the government were slow to take notice.

"It was like the world ended at the Ventura County line," said Stratton, frustrated by local TV stations' failure to relay information about water safety, power outages and closed schools.

"We weren't good visual news."

And Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros said his agency would request \$575 million for assistance, \$75 million more than was sought a week ago.

"The number of uninhabitable units keeps growing, and we are trying to move people back into housing as fast as we can," he told the subcommittee.

Of the \$7.5 billion Clinton requested last week, \$6.2 billion would be new spending the administration wants to pay for by borrowing money, which increases the deficit. An additional \$400 million comes in loans generated by federal funds, and \$900 million comes from funds the government already has approved in previous budgets.

AP-NY-02-01-94 0219EST

House Weighs Earthquake Aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's package of federal aid to earthquake-ravaged Los Angeles is growing in size and scope as Congress prepares for its first votes on the multibillion-dollar measure.

The House Appropriations Committee planned to vote Tuesday on the legislation, the centerpiece of Clinton's proposal to ship \$7.5 billion in government assistance to battered Southern California.

But on Monday, officials said the aid package had grown to a total value of about \$11 billion with the addition of money for last summer's Midwest floods, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Administration and congressional officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an extra \$1 billion or more would be added to pay for the rapidly growing costs of the Jan. 17 quake. The quake killed 61 people and produced damage that may total \$30 billion.

Officials have said from the start that the amount of requested aid would grow as updated damage estimates arrived.

One congressional official said \$800 million would be added for the ongoing costs of the Midwest floods, and \$400 million would be sought for the 1989 Loma Prieta quake near San Francisco.

And \$1.2 billion would be added for American participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the use of U.S. forces in Somalia and Bosnia, said Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., chairman of the House Appropriations defense subcommittee.

The administration had long planned to seek the peacekeeping funds. But this was the first time it was decided that the request would be attached to the earthquake measure, which is expected to move quickly through Congress.

Congress is virtually certain to approve the earthquake package. But fights are likely over conservative moves to force cuts elsewhere in the budget to pay for the aid and to bar the assistance from going to illegal aliens.

The full House plans to vote on the measure Thursday. Senate action will follow. The administration would like to have the measure completed before Congress' next recess, which starts Feb. 11.

Administration officials spelled out some details of the extra funds they will seek in appearances Monday before the House Appropriations housing subcommittee.

Richard Krimm, associate director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said he believed the administration would seek an extra \$800 million to \$1 billion for his agency, beyond the \$3.9 billion requested last week.

drove to the Wilshire Dialysis Center and answered the phone, got the door and eased the discomfort of other kidney patients.

Why would he do that?

"Why wouldn't I?" he responds.

Joe Molina, a Woodland Hills publicist, felt obligated to kindness by a gift. When he bought ice and emergency supplies at a Ventura Boulevard liquor store, a clerk wouldn't charge him for candles.

Molina duplicated the kindness. He drove to Chatsworth to check on friends and employees, ran their errands and invited a dozen to a party at his own cracked home.

"It was my Quake Wake, a

cation of volunteer nurses trying to calm crying babies.

"There's a point where you say, 'All these people want is a couple of rocking chairs,'" he says.

Connell posted an appeal on a city room notice board. He has been given two rockers with promises of more.

The earthquake reduced Beaver's Den—Sandra Beaver's antique store in Tarzana—to three

the earthquake, before my customers called to see if we were OK and could they come down and help?" she says. "Probably not."

Yet, maybe, kindness has a shelf life and random acts will diminish with the aftershocks.

When walls are no longer tumbling down, when damage is repaired and no longer a reminder, will we revert to cutting in and flipping off and barging through our daily encounters?

Wall thinks not.

He says there's just too much attention being paid to the idea for it to be a phase.

"Everywhere you look, everything you read, everyone you talk to is saying they've had it with violence and that there must be a better way to live," Wall says. "And kindness is a better way."

But how can this ideal succeed when most other dreams have sputtered?

"Because there are no special-interest groups involved and kindness is not a political statement," he says. "No famous people are involved, you don't have to spend money on it, it requires no physical effort and political correctness certainly isn't part of it."

"Random acts of senseless kindness is just Heartland America."

'I saw acts of kindness everywhere. . . . Unlike other times in my city, this time the only thing that was bad news was the quake, not the people.'

JOE MOLINA

A Woodland Hills publicist who ran errands for quake victims.

barbecue with champagne and caviar because being extravagant magnified the pick-me-up," he says. "I saw acts of kindness everywhere. . . . Unlike other times in my city, this time the only thing that was bad news was the quake, not the people."

Times reporter Rich Connell could have declined involvement by pleading professional objectivity. But he spent a night in a shelter at Van Nuys High School for one story and was moved by the dedi-

trash containers of broken glass and china.

The phone rang at the height of her misery. It was a wrong number, a woman calling from New Jersey and falling in a frantic search for word of an elderly relative.

Beaver calmed her, took the Valley number and was able to contact the unharmed relative. Then she called New Jersey with the good news.

"Would I have done that before

2114

LOS ANGELES TIMES

FEB 1 1994

For Now, at Least, L.A. Is the Epicenter of Good Deeds

By PAUL DEAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

We were begged to make love, not war. That made a lot of babies but didn't do much to keep us out of Somalia.

Then we were offered a kinder, gentler nation, brightened by a thousand points of light. It went dark after one term.

Now we're into random acts of senseless kindness.

It is the blissful, altruistic, current message of four books, several thousand T-shirts, bumper stickers on Kern County sheriff's vehicles and a rediscovered Gospel according to neighborhood pulpits.

What stirred a year ago as an essay assignment at a community college is bringing a mountain of mail from Europe



L.A.
STORIES

■ A slice of life
in Southern
California

and Asia, adoption by "The Crusaders" television news magazine and a rising domestic challenge: If disease can be eased by a Great American Smokeout, why not try dimming violence with a World Kindness Day?

In Los Angeles, the violence was Jan. 17.

And the goodness and benefaction that broke out certainly has tempered the

trauma.

Vons and Hughes markets gave away food and an elderly woman continues to hunt the west Valley's runaway dogs with cans of Alpo. An attorney carried 200 Big Macs to Balboa Park and a convoy came to our tent cities from St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix. A California National Guardsman played his harmonica for a cluster of cold children, and a woman from El Salvador cried in the night. In her country, she says, soldiers aren't friends of the people.

For a glowing moment, Los Angeles was the epicenter of Good Samaritan

He's a Bakersfield College human relations instructor and the accidental guru of it all. Last year, Wall, 63, was thoroughly dismayed by a persistent, banal cliché of radio news: "We have another random act

of senseless violence to report."

He mentally edited the phrase, substituting kindness for violence.

Suddenly, Wall says, he had "a great phrase that turned a negative into a positive." Which he turned into an assignment, challenging his class to perform, then write about, their own acts of senseless kindness.

In almost immediate concert, a world of nervous youngsters, angry parents, jaded cops, worried clergy and frustrated politicians began clutching at Wall's alternative to human disregard and rudeness—this tiny opportunity to tug America from its bad mood.

It is fitting that Wall was contacted last week by four San Fernando Valley schools wanting to start their own kindness cru-

Please see STORIES, E2

sades. They know it will aid communities and help heal students.

Even more appropriate was that volunteers moving among earthquake victims included a team from the Bakersfield Family Medical Center. Wall disciples all, their T-shirts asked: "Today, I Will Commit One Random Act of Senseless Kindness . . . Will You?"

Several hundred thousand Los Angeles residents have no need to respond. They are two weeks into doing whatever they can, whenever asked and mostly without being asked. And their acts are far from random.

Dave Carlisle, 66, a Korean War veteran and West Pointer, is a sick man. He has suspended renal failure and his life sentence is three home dialysis treatments each day.

Carlisle knew exactly what he needed to do between sessions of cleansing his own blood. While the earthquake still grumbled, he

1814

buildings for 10, 20 years," lamented Commissioner Lloyd S. Cluff at a commission hearing just before the report was released. "And so we're guaranteeing that the crisis is going to be created out of killing a lot of people on the campuses."

No one was killed or injured on university campuses in the Northridge quake, which struck at 4:31 a.m. of a day on which no classes were scheduled. A student was killed at Cal State Los Angeles when a concrete slab fell from a parking structure in the 1987 Whittier quake. Her family agreed to a \$1.4-million settlement from the state and a construction company.

The Seismic Safety Commission and Hayden sponsored a bill in the Legislature to require warning signs on all of the seismically vulnerable campus buildings. But UC lobbyists blocked the move, arguing that the warning signs would be disruptive and unfair.

Compounding that bureaucratic resistance, say seismologists and structural engineers, was the fact that California's universities do not have to follow the state and local earthquake codes imposed on other public schools.

The codes cover classrooms for kindergarten through community college students and require some load-bearing walls to be 15% stronger than normal. The act required public school districts to strengthen or raze all pre-1933 buildings by mid-1977 and mandated that all classroom designs and construction be supervised by the state architect's office as a double check.

As state entities, however, universities do not have to follow those rules. Had the same standards applied, said Dennis Bellet of the state architect's office, there would be no wondering about Royce Hall today. "That would have either been retrofitted or closed down by June 30, 1977," he said.

Instead, UCLA's immunity allowed administrators to use \$13 million in private funds to renovate the historic structure before the 1984 Olympics without dedicating

anything for retrofitting.

A campus committee denounced the move when it warned in 1985 that Royce and 24 other buildings could kill 2,000 people during a major quake along any of the three nearby faults.

UCLA officials say they begged for state money to retrofit Royce but were turned down. Still, others say, they now look foolish not to have found a way to make the seismic improvements.

"If I were the people who made the private donations, I'd be pretty upset because it just went down the toilet, didn't it?" said Bill Petak executive director of USC's Institute for Safety and Systems Management. "It's now a building with major problems."

Private colleges have had a better retrofitting record. The 1990 Seismic Safety Commission report made a strong point of showing how, in contrast to UC, Stanford officials diverted nearly all of their discretionary funds to upgrade their buildings after the Loma Prieta quake did major damage there.

As a private institution, USC spent \$18 million to upgrade or demolish its older buildings after the city of Los Angeles passed a 1983 ordinance calling for the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures. USC architect Mark M. Jones said the school will have to spend "tens of millions" more if the city passes another ordinance requiring the upgrading of unreinforced masonry "fill" buildings with concrete frames.

Since 1992, said Tobin of the state's seismic commission, Cal State administrators have been showing increased concern. They have hired the state architect's office to help monitor construction and have compiled the list of 101 future retrofitting projects.

He also said UC officials have stepped up their efforts to fix earthquake hazards by the year 2000.

Times staff writers Mark Gladstone and Jeff Rabin contributed to this report.

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used areas as the John M. Pfau Library at Cal State San Bernardino; Humboldt State University's Jolly Giant dining commons, where all on-campus residence meals are served; the McIntosh humanities building and Fine Arts buildings at Cal State Long Beach and a library at Cal State Fullerton.

Also high on the list is Cal State Northridge's Sierra Tower, a seven-story complex of faculty offices and classrooms that sustained some of the school's heaviest damage during the Jan. 17 temblor. The structure, a mile from the epicenter, was to receive a \$167,000 earthquake make-over this year, Cal State records show.

Meanwhile, University of California officials have identified 87 structures on their nine campuses yet to be fixed despite being considered poor or very poor seismic risks. These structures include landmarks on the two campuses with the highest seismic risks—UCLA and Berkeley, records show.

Among them is Royce Hall, the 1929 architectural symbol for the UCLA campus and the frequent backdrop for college scenes in movies.

The UCLA landmark, which had been scheduled for retrofitting in 1990, was closed for a week after the Northridge quake because its twin brick towers, weakened by cracks, threatened to fall. Portions of Royce Hall were reopened last week but only after crews built a special tunnel as an emergency exit.

Administrators admit they are racing against the seismic clock but blame the Legislature for being slow to provide the hundreds of millions of dollars needed for wholesale retrofitting.

Projects that get financed still face long delays because each phase—planning, design, construction—must go to Sacramento for budget approval. Even if the money were to suddenly materialize, university officials said, retrofitting is a logistical nightmare on a busy campus.

Case in point: The current retrofitting of UCLA's Powell Library.

It took eight years to plan and required relocating 200,000 books to a specially constructed tent. And while the actual seismic work cost \$11 million, other building and fire code upgrades for the 64-year-old building brought the price tag to \$36 million.

"It would be difficult to take all of the [older] buildings down at once and keep the campus functioning," said Cynthia Ingram, UCLA's assistant director for capital planning.

But critics and seismic experts say university officials have been part of the problem themselves, largely ignoring—and sometimes flouting—the earthquake dangers on their campuses.

"If you want to attract more faculty, more students, more donors, it pays off to be opening handsome new buildings," said state Sen. Tom Hayden (D-Santa Monica). "The alternative is admitting that some buildings are dangerous to human life and that's really difficult to take responsibility for. . . ."

"Faced with that, they cross their fingers and tap the table and hope the Big One doesn't hit," he said.

And sometimes, campus administrators made matters worse, according to a November, 1990, Seismic Safety Commission report. In one glaring example, the agency scored UC Berkeley administrators for building weight rooms and coaching offices under Memorial Stadium, although they had been warned that the unreinforced 1920s structure straddles a fault that creeps noticeably each year.

The report applauded UC for deciding to borrow \$50 million on its own for retrofitting work after the Loma Prieta earthquake, but pointed out that 49 of the structures most in need of work were left off the repair list.

The 1990 report also reached the "unavoidable conclusion" that the Cal State system, where 1950s and 1960s concrete frame buildings pose serious earthquake hazards, had no retrofitting program at all.

"The university system [is] not going to get to some of those

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

FEB 1 1994

Seismic Experts See College Buildings as Potential Deathtraps

■ **Retrofitting:** Officials have known of hazards since 1979. Funding difficulties and a desire to avoid disruptions have combined to delay correcting them.

By RALPH FRAMMOLINO
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A3
California's public universities are dotted with scores of classroom buildings, faculty offices and student hangouts that seismic experts warn could become deathtraps during major earthquakes like the one centered in the San Fernando Valley last month, records show.

State lawmakers and college officials have known about the earthquake hazards since at least 1979, when the state Seismic Safety Commission released a benchmark survey urging that 434 campus buildings be examined because they could pose significant risks to life.

But it has only been in recent years that the universities—which are exempt from state and local earthquake standards—have begun or stepped up construction programs aimed at shoring up walls, securing foundations and reinforcing the masonry skin on potentially unsafe structures.

The delays have resulted from a combination of funding difficulties, the desire to avoid campus disruptions and a push to put up new buildings to keep up with growing



ALAN J. DUROGAN / Los Angeles Times

Royce Hall at UCLA suffered damage in Jan. 17 earthquake.

enrollment, say university officials and their critics.

"I wish they would go faster, I wish they were completed by now," said L. Thomas Tobin, the commission's executive director. "There's such a threat to life in these major buildings but the fact is that you can only do so many buildings at one time."

In the 20-campus California State University system—with 327,000 students, the second-largest higher education system in the nation—administrators have only recently compiled a list of 101 structures or "falling hazards" that need retrofitting.

Topping the list are such heavily
Please see CAMPUSES, A17

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

FEB 1 1994

Revival of State Quake Insurance Proposed

By JERRY GILLAM
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A-16

SACRAMENTO—Legislation calling for revival of a state-run earthquake insurance program for homeowners was introduced Monday in the Assembly.

"We are learning the hard way that repealing the old program was a mistake," said Assemblyman Rusty Arcias (D-San Jose), the bill's author.

The earthquake insurance program was repealed in 1993 after critics claimed that it was bordering on insolvency. If the program had been in place when the Northridge quake hit, Arcias said, it would have contained about \$350 million, enough to provide 60,000 to 70,000 Los Angeles homeowners with checks for \$5,000 or more each.

The new proposed prepaid recovery program would provide homeowners with up to \$13,000, after a \$2,000 deductible, to repair homes damaged by earthquakes, Arcias said.

It would be a mandatory insurance program and cost the average homeowner \$25 to \$75 annually, the amount varying depending on seismic zones, the value of the property and the type of structure. Homeowners who failed to pay would face a secondary or non-foreclosable lien on their property. Mobil homes and condominiums would not be covered.

County tax collectors would col-

lect the fees. The state Department of Housing and Community Affairs would administer the program.

"Earthquakes in California are inevitable," Arcias said, "and it is intelligent public policy to plan ahead for the disaster we know will occur."

Critics of the previous program contended that California, despite its size, is not large enough to adequately fund such a repair program and that the state is misleading the public into a false sense of security over what the state can provide in the event of a major quake. The answer lies in a nationally based insurance program, the critics say.

A spokesman for the insurance industry said Monday it has no position on Arcias' bill, but prefers the national approach, which would cover all types of disasters, including damage by earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and volcanoes.

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-San Jose) has introduced such a bill in Congress.

"We favor a national approach for two reasons," said Tim Hart of the Assn. of California Insurance Companies. "First, there is not enough capacity in California to absorb the kind of losses that would be created by a catastrophic quake. Secondly, the federal government is obligated to pay its debts and can print money."

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

EARTHQUAKE

FEB 1 1994

THE LONG ROAD BACK

Bowl Offers a Break for Quake Victims

■ **Recreation:** For many at relief centers, the NFL championship game provided a respite from their trying situations. TV sets are donated to 29 shelters for the event.

By CHIP JOHNSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

For about three hours Sunday, dozens of victims of the Northridge earthquake put aside their worries about shattered homes, lost jobs and anxious relatives as they kicked back and enjoyed a less frightening form of violence: Super Bowl XXVIII.

"I've been waiting in a FEMA line all week," said a drawn-looking Jeff Mandel, 40, as he sat intently watching the game from his cot at a Red Cross shelter in Granada Hills.

"This is a lot easier," said Mandel, whose North Hills apartment was condemned after the quake.

At 29 shelters throughout the city, people made homeless by the quake cheered the Buffalo Bills or the Dallas Cowboys, happy to see somebody other than themselves and their families get knocked around for a change.

Quake victims watched the sports extravaganza on color TVs donated by Circuit City and the A.C. Green Foundation for Youth, set up by the former Lakers basketball star.

The TV delivery came just in time for J.B. Cash, 35, who has lived in the Canoga Park High School gymnasium since his Northridge apartment was wrecked.

"That picture tube is messed up," he said, pointing to a dilapidated school TV set on the floor.

Even with the distractions of a small army of news photographers taking shots from every conceivable angle, Cash seemed content to recline on a blue army cot and root for the Bills, who lost their fourth consecutive Super Bowl game.

Seated on the floor before him were brothers Frank and David Mory, ages 13 and 10, who, naturally, cheered for opposite sides. David was in Super Bowl heaven, carefully selecting potato chips from three different bags and occasionally digging into a bag of cheese puffs.

At Mason Park in Chatsworth, Fernando Delao of Chatsworth held his 3-year-old son, Eric, and related how the game was a welcome distraction from the Northridge quake and another temblor he survived, the 1986 Mexico City quake, which killed 4,700 people.

"When I watch the game I forget about the earthquake and how I felt I would lose my life at that moment," he said.

But for others, the Northridge earthquake and the massive destruction it caused took the exuberance out of the championship football game. Unlike their counter-

Please see **BOWL**, B3

parts watching from their own homes, they enjoyed no booze, no cheering, no high fives.

"The game keeps you busy from thinking about everything that's happened, but then you look around you and it all comes back," said Giovanni Pacheco, a 16-year-old North Hills resident.

Pacheco spent last week at a shelter in Granada Hills, but his family has since moved back into their home. But Pacheco returned to the shelter to watch the game with a newfound friend, Inez Becker, with whom he spent much of the game smooching.

"Buffalo is going down," said Pacheco, between kisses with Becker, who was too absorbed to talk. "Dallas is going to win."

However, Clarence Nelson and his friend, Keith Louis, enjoyed themselves almost as much as they would have if they hadn't been knocked out of their Reseda apartments. Almost.

"The Budweiser truck got a flat on the way over here," joked Nelson, 42, who saw the game inside a Red Cross tent in Van Nuys.

"Yeah, we need a case of beer," cracked Louis.

Times staff writer Jeannette Rezaide contributed to this story.

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Inside, the principal damage displayed Monday by Webb and Hagerman was a deep crack running the entire length of the upper level concourse, which the two officials said showed how the Coliseum's outer wall had separated from the inner seating structure.

Gaps could be seen between sections of seating, and chunks of fallen concrete littered parts of the concourse.

In addition, the lower part of the stadium seating, built in the early 1920s, had sunk away several inches from the upper section, which was added for the 1932 Olympics.

There was also serious cracking of some pillars and beams in the Peristyle end of the stadium—the only facility in the world to have hosted two of the modern Olympic Games, and the site of a World Series and many important political and entertainment events.

"One problem we have is that different parts of the stadium moved in different directions," Webb said.

Webb also expressed concern that the earth berm on which the Coliseum was built is alluvial fill that may have been substantially

weakened by the earthquake and could have compromised vital structural elements of the facility. Farnum, who has worked for the Coliseum Commission for 26 years, said she was shocked when she viewed the damage the day of the earthquake.

"After the 1971 (Sylmar) earthquake, the structural engineers told us the Coliseum was well protected against quake damage," she said. "We had only minimal damage then."

Several Coliseum officials Monday expressed hope and confidence that federal funds would pay for most of the repairs.

N. Matthew Grossman, the outgoing commission president, said, "I just can't imagine doing away with the Coliseum and all the history that has gone with it. I just can't accept that kind of alternative."

Terry Hamlin, a spokesman for FEMA, said under guidelines adopted for the Northridge earthquake, the federal government will pay 80% of the cost of repairs on appropriate public facilities and matching funds from state and

local government need total only 10%. In the past, the split has most frequently been 75%-25%.

But, Hamlin said, any federal action will have to await a complete engineers report and then the amount appropriated may be contingent on such factors as to how old the facility is, how much deterioration existed before the earthquake, and how much of the damage was covered by insurance.

Both he and Webb stressed that fast action is necessary if there is to be any chance of getting the facility ready for next fall's football games by the Los Angeles Raiders professional franchise and USC.

A USC spokesman said Monday the school will await the engineer's report before commenting.

The Raiders did not return calls for comment. There were reports on Monday in eastern publications that the Raiders have been exploring a move from Los Angeles to either Hartford or Baltimore. Even after renovations to make the stadium more suitable for viewing football action, Raider attendance in the recently completed season was often disappointing.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

FEB 1 1994

Damage to Coliseum Clouds Football Season

**■ Quake: Some fear stadium may have to be torn down.
A full report on the damage is expected in two weeks.**

By KENNETH REICH
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A-1

Earthquake damage to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is so extensive that the historic stadium might not be repaired in time for next fall's football season, officials said Monday. One Coliseum aide said that a structural engineer's report is pending, but there is a possibility it might have to be demolished and rebuilt.

In any event, the officials now believe that the costs of reopening the stadium could vastly exceed the estimate of \$35 million made last week.

Coliseum officials have not foreclosed the possibility of repairing and reopening the facility—which was red-tagged Sunday by city building inspectors—in time for the next football season, but they concede that time is short, and that work is contingent on a quick decision by federal authorities to assume most of the funding.

A spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency said Monday that consideration of Coliseum aid could take time, and added that earthquake-damaged schools would have a higher priority.

During a tour of the stadium Monday, Don C. Webb, the Coliseum Commission's project director for recent renovations of the facility, said a fairly complete report from structural engineers is expected in two weeks.

"A [crack] runs through the concourse, through the tunnels and into the base of the foundation," Webb said. "What we don't see is extremely important. The question is whether this [facility] can be fixed, or whether it will have to be demolished."

Please see COLISEUM, A18

But the principal structural engineer retained to assess the damage said he believes that demolition will not be necessary.

Nuhli Yousef said, "Technically, the Coliseum still has capacity to withstand earthquakes. There is a lot of damage, but it is not all to the lateral earthquake resistance system of the building. There is some residual strength and we can build on that."

"There is a separation of the outer Coliseum wall from the superstructure," Yousef said. "The outer structure was displaced differently from the inner side, where the seating is located. . . . But the structural integrity may not have been fatally compromised."

Nonetheless, Yousef said, Saturday's magnitude 6.0 aftershock caused additional damage at the Coliseum, and the \$35-million estimate of damage made last week is too low.

"Repairs will take six months to a year," once they begin, Yousef said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Denny Dorn, who also toured the facility and has an engineering degree, said he believes the lower levels of the Coliseum are on "solid ground" and that most of the damage is confined to the "higher tier" at the concourse, or upper concessions and restroom level, and above.

"The higher tier will have to be taken down and replaced," he said. "It's going to be very expensive. But I think repairs are feasible, and we are applying to FEMA for funding."

The incoming Coliseum Commission president, County Supervisor Chairwoman Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, said she had been informed "it would not necessarily be required to remove the entire upper tier." And while "some real fast moving" would be necessary to reopen the Coliseum by the season's first game, she

believes political pressure will be considerable on FEMA to promptly come up with the money.

The Coliseum has no earthquake insurance, officials said, and no appreciable funds in reserve for repairs.

Jay Hagerman, the Coliseum's general manager who was present for Monday's tour, declared that everything is contingent on what the structural engineer reports about the severity of the damage.

During the tour, Hagerman expressed exasperation that cracks in the facility's superstructure and gaps between its sections have grown deeper and wider since the Jan. 17 earthquake.

As the tour drew to a close, Webb, Hagerman and Margaret Farnum, executive secretary to the Coliseum Commission, noticed for the first time that the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety had red-tagged the Coliseum. A sign posted on the outer fence at the peristyle end declared that it was unsafe to enter.

The sign said it had been posted at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Monday, the city's chief building inspector, Russell Lane, said he took a team to the Coliseum on Sunday, but they were unable to enter the locked facility.

He said the judgment had been made to red tag the building based on cracks that could be observed from the outside, and that city inspectors had yet to observe the inside.

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are well-built. Some of them have just fallen apart."

Still, not all of those new buyers are being welcomed by real estate agents or their sellers.

Carolyn Lamb, co-owner of Century 21 Lamb Realty in Northridge, said she and her staff have gotten several calls from investors hoping to pick up homes at a tiny fraction of their normal prices.

"We've gotten our share of bottom-feeders, but they're not having much success," said Lamb, whose home also sustained major damage during the quake. "The law says that we have to present their offers to our sellers, but there's nothing that says we have to like it."

Many buyers and sellers who were waiting for escrow to close when the quake hit are in limbo. About 1,000 deals were pending in the San Fernando Valley when the earthquake struck, according to

the local Realtors' association. A few hundred were in escrow in Santa Monica and adjacent communities.

Many lenders are requiring every house that they had agreed to finance in the county be reinspected for damage. As a result, some appraisers and inspectors have been busy taking a second look at properties more than 75 miles away from the epicenter.

"The house I'm buying in Sherman Oaks didn't get hurt a bit, but I can't close the deal because my [appraiser] is busy looking at houses down in Long Beach," grumbled Nick Smith, who drives a delivery truck. "The whole thing is stupid."

An informal poll of about a dozen real estate offices in the San Fernando Valley and on the West Side found that only about 10% of all the purchases in escrow at the time of the earthquake have been canceled.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

FEB 1 1994

Quake Upends Supply and Demand in Real Estate

■ **Housing:** Sales booms are created away from the epicenter. Apartment rentals have also soared.

By DAVID W. MYERS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A-1

The Jan. 17 earthquake that turned so many lives upside-down has also upended supply and demand in the Los Angeles-area housing market, bringing unlikely relief to many long-suffering property owners but only renewed grief to others.

Homeowners and landlords whose wallets have been thinning for months because they were not able to sell their vacant houses or rent empty apartments say that they are now besieged by tenants displaced by the tremor.

Meanwhile, buyers who want to avoid Northridge and other com-

munities at the quake's epicenter are spilling over into surrounding areas, creating a mini-sales boom from Woodland Hills to Agoura on the west and across the San Gabriel Valley in the east, real estate agents say.

To be sure, many home shoppers have retreated to the sidelines while the ground continues to shake from aftershocks. And hundreds of home sales are in limbo because lenders are insisting that properties be reinspected for damage.

Yet some opportunists have rushed in, hoping to pick up a bargain in a housing market that only recently had emerged from a

Please see HOUSING, A16

prolonged and severe recession. Harried salespeople and lenders are working overtime, helping the new clients while trying to salvage the deals already in escrow.

"It's like trying to navigate through the Bermuda Triangle," said Jamie Hamstead, a Northridge real estate agent trying to save the six sales he has in escrow while also repairing \$60,000 in damage to his home. "Most of us have never been through something like this before."

The quake rendered more than 15,000 homes and apartments unlivable, throwing more than 30,000 people onto streets from Santa Monica to Simi Valley, according to city agencies and disaster relief officials.

With so many families looking for new places to live, sellers who have lost thousands of dollars while their vacant homes sat unsold in a depressed market have been flooded with calls from prospective renters.

Linda Kennedy has been making the \$950-a-month mortgage payment on her home in Canoga Park that she vacated last July after finding a new job in Oregon. The house sustained little damage from the quake, so she flew back to Los Angeles last week and leased it to a displaced Northridge family for \$1,850 a month.

"I figure I'll recoup what I've lost by the summer, and then I'll be making good money because the family signed a one-year lease," said Kennedy, who reviews con-

tracts for the federal government.

"I feel sorry for all those people who lost their homes, but it's nice to finally make something off this house. The last six months have bled me dry."

The quake has also been a boon for sellers in many San Fernando Valley communities that were spared the most serious damage. Thus, some would-be buyers are steering clear of hard-hit Northridge and Reseda in favor of nearby Woodland Hills and north into southern Ventura County.

Jerry Bolin, sales manager of the Coldwell Banker real estate office in Woodland Hills, said his agents sold a half-dozen properties over weekend—even though many buyers stayed home to watch the Super Bowl.

"Before the quake, we'd be happy with just three or four sales," Bolin said.

Although many put their home-buying plans on ice after the quake hit, some new buyers have moved in to replace them.

Harriet Lipson, vice president of an executive search firm, lost her \$535-a-month rent-controlled Santa Monica apartment in the quake. Because it would cost her twice that for a comparable apartment, she wants to buy a condominium, hoping her mortgage-interest deductions will keep her overall housing expenses at a minimum.

"There are a lot of good deals on the West Side right now," Lipson said. As a bonus, she added, "it's a little easier to tell which buildings

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FEB 1 1994

Go National, or Go Broke^{B6}

Why genuine disaster insurance can't be a California-only deal

A number of legislators are eager to revive the short-lived California Residential Earthquake Recovery Fund, an insurance pool that was supposed to provide up to \$15,000 in quake loss coverage to every homeowner, but which had to be liquidated as it teetered toward insolvency. The impulse to again offer some form of protection against major loss is understandable. But a limited, localized response falls well short of what's needed.

Far more preferable is an insurance program that would be both affordable and truly broad-based. Probably the best approach is through a national disaster insurance program. Legislation to that end has been drafted. Congress should move quickly to consider it.

The Natural Disaster Protection Act would offer incentives to states to adopt building codes to make new construction less vulnerable to earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters. It would give insurance com-

panies incentives to offer coverage against quakes and other perils not usually included in basic homeowner policies. And it would create a federal reinsurance fund, to be financed by the insurance industry, to reduce the risks of insurance company insolvencies because of exceptionally large claims in natural disasters.

Spreading the risk is essential to keeping premiums affordable. On Jan. 17 no more than 25% of California homeowners carried earthquake insurance, an indication either of a staggering degree of optimism or—much more likely—a pervasive feeling that high premium costs and large deductibles had simply put earthquake insurance out of reach. But natural disasters will ever be with us. There are sound and affordable ways to mitigate their economic consequences. A national program to protect against natural disasters seems clearly to be an idea whose time has come.

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New Mobile Home Rules Considered

■ **Damage:** Nearly 10% of such dwelling units in L.A. County were rendered uninhabitable by the quake. Some call for new bracing requirements.

By KURT PITZER
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

B-1

Nearly 10% of all mobile homes in Los Angeles County have been declared uninhabitable as a result of earthquake damage, sparking renewed interest over whether costly safety measures should be required by the state.

Of 51,062 mobile homes in parks in Los Angeles County, 4,947 were damaged by the magnitude 6.6 quake to the extent that they are not livable, said Travis Pitts, deputy director for codes and standards for the California Department of Housing and Community Development, which oversees mobile homes.

"Most of them tumbled all the way off their support systems onto the ground," Pitts said. "Some shifted on their foundations enough that they are considered dangerous."

A total of 184 were burned to the ground in fires fueled mostly by ruptured gas lines, one of which took the life of a 92-year-old woman at Sunburst Park Mobile Homes in Chatsworth.

Pitts said changes in safety standards are being drafted.

Although the department has long favored requiring restraints to help keep mobile homes in place during earthquakes, strong opposition over the cost—estimated at up to \$3,000 per mobile home—and the laborious process of justifying new regulations has kept such measures unrealized, Pitts said.

"It's an issue of priorities and resources," Pitts said. "I think earthquake restraints will take a higher priority for us now, but I still don't have the staff or the resources to finish the regulation process right away."

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Joining in support for added safety requirements is the state Seismic Safety Commission.

Last week, in a preliminary report surveying the damage, the commission recommended that all mobile homes in California be secured to foundations on installation by July 1, 1995. In addition, Please see SAFETY, B4

the commission proposed that all mobile homes sold after Oct. 1, 1995, be anchored to foundations.

To place new requirements on mobile homes, the department must conduct exhaustive hearings and answer all concerns from the public to satisfy the staff of the Office of Administrative Law, which approves new regulations, Pitts said.

The department proposed mandatory "sawhorse-type" supports twice during the 1970s, Pitts said. But they were opposed by the Golden State Mobilhome Owners League, the state's only association of mobile home residents, on the grounds that the cost of installing supports—usually in the \$800-\$3,000 range—would keep people of lower incomes out of the market.

The devastation of the Northridge quake, plus a change in league leadership, could result in a change in that position.

"We certainly don't oppose restraints now," said Golden State Vice President Pat Lowery, whose mobile home slid from its foundation during the quake. "Anything that will save our homes, we should do."

Part of the problem, said Tony Hadley, vice president of the Manufactured Housing Institute, a national trade association, is that restraints used in states prone to hurricanes and tornadoes may not prevent mobile homes from slipping off their foundations during an earthquake.

"California is actually way ahead when it comes to safety standards," Hadley said. "They have at least done most of the necessary research."

There also have been proposals to require that mobile homes come equipped with devices that automatically shut off gas in case of an earthquake or ruptured gas line, Pitts said, but state officials and

utility companies have been unsatisfied with their design.

Most of the damaged homes in the San Fernando Valley and outlying areas will be livable once they are lifted back onto their foundations by using cranes or hydraulic jacks, Pitts said.

But it may be weeks before thousands of mobile home dwellers—many of whom are senior citizens—can begin the repair process.

Janet P. LaCoc, 57, who lives alone at Northridge Mobile Home Park, said a close call during the earthquake persuaded her to install some sort of safety brace under her home once it is replaced.

"My steps came off and blocked my door," LaCoc said. "I got out through a window but, if there had been a fire, I might not have gotten out. And there are a lot of older ladies here who are lucky they made it at all."

John Quick, who suffered about \$20,000 in damage in his home at the Tahitian Mobilhome Park, said he, too, would support mandatory restraints.

"I was very surprised that my home didn't stay up better than it did," Quick said. "They should require quake bracing because I don't think people will do it on their own."

State inspectors going park to park during the past two weeks found mobile homes next to their foundations or tilted, supports sticking through floors and ashes where homes once stood.

The survey by Pitts' department also found 559 of Ventura County's 9,425 mobile homes unlivable.

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buildings that have been declared unsafe, announced that it has drafted a policy for arresting anyone who persists in returning to those structures.

That policy, dubbed "three strikes and you're out" by department wags, was outlined in a department memo obtained Monday.

Under that policy, police officers will not usually initiate arrests but will wait for requests made by building and safety inspectors, who are notifying the city's Emergency Operations Center when they see or hear of people entering red-tagged buildings.

Entering any building posted as unsafe is a misdemeanor, but the LAPD policy makes clear that arrests will only be made as a last resort.

"Although the arrest may be made anytime the offense is committed, people who reoccupy red-tagged buildings will be given two warnings before an arrest is made," the memo states.

There is one exception: If people refuse to leave buildings when asked to do so by police, the officers may make an arrest then.

"This was put together because we had some real concerns" from building and safety inspectors, said Capt. Robert J. Martin, author of the memo.

"They wanted squads of Metro officers out throwing these people in the Bastille. . . . We thought we needed a policy, but we didn't want to go too far. These people are not criminals. They're nice people who have a problem."

Martin said there were a few flare-ups Friday and Saturday, but that the problem seemed to subside by Sunday. "I think it's kind of resolving itself," he said.

Fourteen schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District reopened after two weeks of structural inspections. At least 21 quake-damaged schools in the sprawling district remain closed, but officials said some campuses will reopen this week.

The Red Cross said that 4,177 people were still being housed in 30 shelters and 518 were camping in tents outside the shelters. The Salvation Army sheltered 492 indoors in one shelter and an additional 382 in two tent sites erected by the National Guard.

• City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, chairman of the council's Budget and Finance Committee, estimated that the city will lose at least \$33 million in revenue as a result of the quake.

"Even before the earthquake, we were facing an approximately \$150-million shortfall for the 1994-95 fiscal year," Yaroslavsky said. "With an additional \$33-million loss, we are looking at a very serious money problem."

The councilman said utility tax revenues will drop because of power outages, closed businesses and destroyed homes. Property taxes will drop because of reduced property values, and Municipal Court fines will dip because police officers—diverted to other duties—are and will not be writing as many traffic tickets.

Also, he said, damage to retail businesses will reduce the city's share of sales taxes. Business taxes will drop and reluctance to purchase real estate will trim documentary transfer tax revenues, he added.

• Lucy Jones, a seismologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, said the area was averaging two or three magnitude 3.0 aftershocks a day—compared to 150 of them on Jan. 17. She said the aftershock pattern should continue to taper off, although there could be another 5.0 aftershock in coming weeks.

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4 P10

LOS ANGELES TIMES FEB 01 1994

First Major Pact for Freeway Repair

■ **Recovery:** Riverside firm receives an \$14.8-million contract to rebuild Interstate 5 bridge in Gavin Canyon. The project has a June completion target. Caltrans official says Santa Monica Freeway bid may be signed this week.

By ERIC MAINIC
and JIM NEWTON
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

B-3

The first major contract for reconstruction of freeway bridges damaged in the earthquake was let for \$14.8 million Monday and officials said the work on Interstate 5 in Gavin Canyon should be completed by early June.

Caltrans Director James van Loben Sels said the E.L. Yeager Construction Co. of Riverside, which won the contract, will earn a bonus of \$150,000 a day for each day it can beat the 130-day deadline.

"Normally, it would take up to a year to complete a job like this," he said. "This time, they'll be working 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Federal officials said that if the work on the bridges southwest of Santa Clarita is completed within 180 days, the federal government will pick up the entire tab.

Caltrans regional director Jerry Baxter said his agency is moving swiftly on all other freeway reconstruction efforts.

"We expect to let the contract for the work on the Santa Monica Freeway on Friday," Baxter said.

The contract for the Simi Valley Freeway "should follow on the heels of that," he said. "We hope to complete all [the freeway reconstruction] within a year."

Yeager, one of the largest transportation contractors in California, has had a hand in many highway projects, including construction of the interchange between Interstate 15 and the Riverside Freeway in Corona.

The firm won the contract to rebuild two quake-damaged I-5 bridges with a bid of \$14,819,000, just \$13,000 more than the Caltrans engineers' estimate, Van Loben Sels said.

Caltrans engineers said the work will involve the replacement of two parallel bridges in Gavin Canyon—one for northbound and one for southbound traffic. The original bridges, built in 1968 and never retrofitted to increase their resistance to earthquakes, both collapsed in the 6.6 quake Jan. 17.

The engineers said the bridges failed at points where sliding "hinges" had been incorporated to permit the spans to expand and contract with the weather. They said that during the earthquake, the horizontal movement was greater than the length of the hinges, and the spans pulled away from their supports and tumbled into the canyon.

The new bridges will be continuous spans without expansion hinges, the engineers said. To allow for expansion, the bridges will rest on sliding abutment footings designed to permit more horizontal movement than is expected in any earthquake.

Until the reconstruction is completed, two lanes of traffic in each direction are being routed over a temporary detour that opened Monday, connecting to

The Old Road, a section of the original U.S. 99 that predated the Golden State Freeway.

"It's beautiful, but I'm afraid tomorrow the rest of the valley will discover it," Santa Clarita Valley resident Debbie Glanella said after arriving Monday morning at her Downtown office.

Baxter said the temporary detours around the damaged I-5, Foothill, Santa Monica and Simi Valley freeways generally are "moving pretty well." He said motorists seeking alternate routes have created congestion on other highways, with the Ventura Freeway between the Hollywood and Glendale freeway interchanges now carrying about 7% more traffic than normal.

In an attempt to ease the congestion on the detours around the shattered Santa Monica Freeway bridges over Washington and Fairfax boulevards, transit officials have opened a new park-and-ride facility at Constitution Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard in Westwood, served by a new express bus line to Downtown Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, the public has been slow to get the word.

"This morning, we had zero ridership," James Okasaki, a spokesman for the city Department of Transportation, said Monday.

Metrolink officials said a new station on the Los Angeles-to-Lancaster line opened Monday at Acton as scheduled, with another station expected to open in Santa Clarita this weekend.

Richard Stanger, Metrolink's executive director, said station platforms in Sylmar and Burbank have been lengthened to accommodate the longer trains that have run since the quake.

In other developments Monday:

• Richard Andrews, director of the state Office of Emergency Services, said 215,898 people have registered under a variety of federal assistance programs, exceeding in only nine days the six-month total of applicants from Hurricane Andrew in Florida.

Of those, 208,844 have applied for temporary rental assistance, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency has responded by mailing out 12,831 checks worth \$39,338,801.

More than 7,300 of the applicants have applied for loans from the Small Business Administration. The SBA said 550 of those applications have been approved, for a total of \$16,779,800.

Officials said 112,783 of applicants have asked for emergency food stamps. Of those, 2,168 applications have been denied and 90,323 applications have been approved for a total value of \$25,477,295. The others are being processed.

More than 3,000 people waited in the parking lot at Dodger Stadium to apply for a one-time allotment of food stamps, but a new three-day waiting period left some disappointed and hungry.

"I still have to wait to get something to eat. It doesn't make sense," said Deborah Dennis of South-Central Los Angeles. "I have to wait three days to find out if we can go home and have a full meal."

The wait was enforced to deter cheating.

• The city's Building and Safety Department said 43,449 structures had been inspected by midday Monday, with 26,920 dwelling units declared unsafe for occupancy.

The Los Angeles Police Department, confronted with the problem of trying to keep people out of

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3,450

LOS ANGELES TIMES

B-6

FEB 1 1994

They Only Help Those Who Help Themselves

U.S. aid, yes, but the state must be willing to tax itself

Washington continues to respond efficiently to the mounting challenges created by the Northridge earthquake. But the aid being delivered by the federal government is only the beginning for Southern California. Much more will be needed to rebuild a region that is crucial to the entire nation.

Donna Shalala, President Clinton's health and human services secretary, is the latest Cabinet member to personally inspect the damage and announce federal assistance. She will make available \$28 million more to help repair hospitals and government medical centers.

Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown is expected to come to Los Angeles this week to address the long-term recovery of businesses. That visit, too, is most welcome, for an economic recovery is critical to restoring jobs, goods, services and a sense of order.

The Clinton Administration is expected to seek at least \$8.6 billion in aid—and that figure might increase as damage estimates grow. Congress will soon take up a supplemental appropriation to help Los Angeles. To help speed that legislation into law, Gov. Pete Wilson should put more state money on the table in Sacramento. His initial request for 100% federal financing is unrealistic. He and the Legislature must be prepared to consider a temporary tax hike to help pay for rebuilding. If federal purse strings are to loosen again, Washington must see Californians as willing to do their part.

The need is enormous. Nearly 216,000 people applied for federal assistance, according to Richard Andrews, director of the California Office of Emergency Services, and

thousands more are expected to apply before the Federal Emergency Management Agency folds up its disaster relief centers in Los Angeles.

Thousands of victims already have received government checks and vouchers to pay for temporary housing and other basic necessities and repairs. Another group that desperately needs help is the many individuals and families who were homeless before the earthquake; currently, they

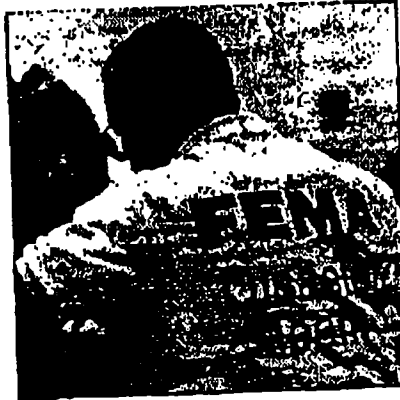
don't qualify for emergency relief.

More than 112,000 people had applied for emergency food stamps by Saturday. Sadly—but predictably—their ranks included more than a few fraudulent applicants. At the urging of the County Board of Supervisors, federal and county officials put in new

safeguards to prevent abuse, including a computer system to track duplicate applications.

Authorities have lost no time in making arrests for aid-related fraud. Inspectors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the food stamp program, and local police officers have arrested five people on charges of illegally buying food stamps from cash-hungry applicants.

The Northridge earthquake, which has generated both heroism and greed, has proved to be no exception to the notion that tragedy brings out the best and worst in people. The 6.6-point temblor killed our neighbors, destroyed our homes, damaged our businesses and karate-chopped some freeways, and its seemingly endless aftershocks have frayed our nerves. But it did not shatter our resolve, and the surest way to prove that to the rest of the country is for Sacramento to rapidly ante up the tax money needed for rebuilding.



FEMA: Torrent of quake-aid pleas.

7810

Fraud investigator Jacqueline Davis estimated about 5 percent of those applying would be denied.

"It was so blatant before," she said. "I'd spot a face in line and say, 'Didn't I just see you here yesterday?' This way, since they know we're clearing it, it tends to weed them out."

The magnitude-6.6 earthquake on Jan. 17 killed 61 people and crippled the region's freeway system. Nearly 3,000 aftershocks have been recorded by seismologists.

Commuters from the city of Santa Clarita won a reprieve from traffic snarls Monday with the opening of a detour on The Old Road, a two-lane service

road winding around damaged Interstate 5 about 35 miles north of Los Angeles.

In other developments:

■ The Clinton administration will ask Congress today for \$2 billion more in federal earthquake relief than it had previously announced — making the emergency assistance package the largest ever proposed, administration officials said Monday. Citing still-rising damage estimates, a flood of relief applicants and the impact of serious aftershocks, the administration is boosting its request for housing grants, small-business loans and other federal aid to \$8.6 billion.

■ Lucy Jones, a seismologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, said the area was averaging two or three magnitude-3.0 aftershocks a day — compared with 150 of them on Jan. 17. She described the aftershock pattern as normal and said it would continue to taper off, although there could be another 5.0 in the coming weeks.

■ Richard Andrews, director of the state Office of Emergency Services, said 215,898 people had registered for federal assistance, exceeding in only nine days the six-month total of applicants from Hurricane Andrew.

■ Fourteen schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District reopened after two weeks of extensive structural inspections. At least 21 quake-damaged schools in the sprawling district remain closed, but officials said some of those campuses will reopen this week.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

FEB 01 1994

THE NORTHRIDGE QUAKE

Authorities on the watch for fraud

Clinton requests more relief aid

Mercury News Wire Services

LOS ANGELES — Commuters got a lift from an old road, thousands lined up for emergency food stamps Monday and earthquake-stricken Southern California enjoyed a two-day respite from bone-jolting aftershocks.

More than 3,000 people waited patiently in the parking lot at Dodger Stadium to apply for a one-time allotment of food stamps, but a new three-day waiting period left some disappointed and hungry.

"I still have to wait to get something to eat. It doesn't make sense," said Deborah Dennis of South-Central Los Angeles. "The lines at the food kitchens are just as long. I have to wait three days to find out if we can go home and have a full meal."

The waiting period allows the county department of public social services to check by computer whether applicants have already applied or meet low-income and property requirements.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teresa Cabrera, Marcela Arreola and Charlotte Henderson fill out emergency food stamps forms.

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES
FEBRUARY 01, 1994

Fiber freeways seen as quake solution

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Someday, Californians may not have to worry about massive concrete bridges crumbling underneath their cars or crushing them during earthquakes.

The proof lies below three normal-looking highway ramps, just north of Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, researchers say. Two years ago, the ramps were upgraded to survive quakes — not with concrete or steel, but with the same lightweight, once-secret fibers used to make the stealth bomber.

And when the earth shook Jan. 17, the ramps held.

"What we have are the beginnings of an entirely new type of material for the civil construction industry," said Frieder Seible, a University of California structural engineer.

"Soon it won't be just steel, concrete and timber anymore."

But some skeptics say Mr. Seible's defense-conversion dream is still years off.

So-called composite materials must prove they are durable and cost-effective before governments can routinely use them to build bridges, they say.

"They've shown they can work in the lab. But now we must see how they perform in the field," said Mohsen Sultan, a California Department of Transportation bridge engineer. "Safety must be our primary concern."

Mr. Seible, his colleagues and a consortium of private companies are working to prove what's safe.

Last year, they won a \$10 million federal defense-conversion grant to build the world's first bridge made entirely of composites. Construction on the 450-foot-long San Diego span, over Interstate 5, will start in three years.

Sometime in the next two years, UC researchers will replace a concrete roadbed on an Interstate 80 bridge in Northern California's Sierra Nevada range with a section of composites, strong enough to carry trucks but light enough that Mr. Seible's two elementary-school children can hoist a chunk big enough to fill a supermarket cart.

The new roadway will make the bridge weigh less. It will better re-

sist snow and road salt.

"Every spring they have big potholes there, and every year they spend money to fix them," Mr. Seible said. "We're going to change that."

But it is California's destructive quakes, not potholes, that have given composites their biggest boost.

Initially, after the 1989 Loma Prieta quake in San Francisco, highway officials wrapped steel jackets around thousands of bridge support columns. During quakes, those columns are pushed violently side to side. Steel keeps them from crumbling.

All but one of the eight bridges that collapsed during January's magnitude-6.6 Los Angeles quake were on a waiting list for the steel retrofit. Bridges that had already received the steel upgrade remained

standing.

And so did the experiment in which the California transportation department had allowed a San Diego company, Hexcel Fyfe, to wrap composite materials, rather than steel, around 15 support columns in 1992.

The day after the quake, owner and chemical engineer Edward Fyfe inspected those columns just north of downtown Los Angeles, 20 miles from the quake's epicenter. "We took pictures," he said. "There was no damage."

Mr. Fyfe's company weaves fibers of glass and Kevlar — the material in bulletproof vests — into a flexible material that feels like cloth. When that material is dipped into an epoxy resin, essentially a strong glue, it becomes a hard shell.

Mr. Fyfe and some UC research-

ers believe that if Caltrans approved composites for seismic retrofitting now, the upgrades could be done more quickly and cheaply, by creating more competition with the companies that provide steel jackets.

But officials want to make sure the composites can withstand rain, heat or sun over long periods before giving that approval, Mr. Sultan said.

Cost is another factor. Composites can cost up to \$150 a pound, compared with 50 cents a pound for concrete. But supporters say they require less labor and are quicker, easier and less costly in the long run.

Will California ever have a whole freeway made of composites?

"That may not be entirely worth the cost," Mr. Seible says with a chuckle. "Gravel will always have its uses."

\$7.1 Billion in Budget Cuts Urged to Offset Quake Aid

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Staff Writer

A bipartisan coalition of House deficit hawks has "suggested" \$7.1 billion in budget cuts to offset the cost of President Clinton's proposed emergency earthquake relief for California.

The House Appropriations Committee today is scheduled to consider Clinton's request for \$6.6 billion in earthquake aid, and the House could vote on the supplemental appropriations bill as soon as Thursday. Under the proposal the administration made last week, the relief package would be allowed to add to the deficit under budget rules that allow emergency spending.

The 69 separate spending cuts suggested to offset earthquake aid were largely culled from a \$90 billion package of spending reductions that the House narrowly defeated last November. The coauthors of that bill, Rep. Timothy J. Penny (D-Minn.) and Rep. John R. Kasich (R-

Ohio), offered the \$7.1 billion package with Rep. Jim Nussle (R-Iowa) and Rep. Gary A. Condit (D-Calif.), who last summer were critics of deficit spending for midwestern flood relief.

"We will cooperate in a bipartisan manner to ensure that the aid Californians deserve is delivered to them quickly," the four lawmakers said. "It's clear to us—and we hope to make it clear to others—that we can provide this aid responsibly without increasing the deficit and further burdening the American taxpayer."

Condit, whose central California district was not affected by the Jan. 17 quake near Los Angeles, said his support for offsetting disaster relief for his home state was consistent with his position last year on midwestern flood aid.

"We just can't continually add to the debt," Condit said. "I think we should have a set-aside for disasters. We have one or two annually."

Office of Management and Budget Director Leon E. Panetta said last week that the administration would "resist" offsetting cuts so that

earthquake victims would not be "held hostage." He urged "the same sense of compassion and concern that we have applied to other disasters," when emergency aid was charged to the deficit.

The largest single cut proposed yesterday by the four lawmakers—cutting the federal work force by 252,000 to save \$1.6 billion—has already been approved by the House and Senate as part of other legislation. Last November, the House included the personnel cut in a \$37.1 billion alternative to the Penny-Kasich package of budget cuts. The Senate has included work-force reduction as an offset to both a \$22.3 billion crime bill and federal employee buyouts.

The four legislators also listed large savings of \$488 million in airport grants, \$438 million in military base closing costs, \$425 million for multifamily housing projects and and \$367 million for public housing construction. Smaller reductions would come in foreign aid, water

projects and community development grants. The Clinton administration was asked to take a 5 percent cut in the White House budget and a \$5 million reduction in its national service program, begun last year.

House Democratic leaders have opposed offsetting spending cuts for disaster aid, describing the earthquake as exactly the kind of emergency contemplated when they established ground rules for waivers of pay-as-you-go budget rules.

A House Democratic leadership aide also said that requiring budget cuts affecting the entire country to finance disaster aid for one region made for losing politics.

After the budget debate on flood aid, House Speaker Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.) said he would name a task force to study disaster relief. Last week, he appointed as cochairmen Reps. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) and Bill Emerson (R-Mo.), but the rest of the membership has not been announced.

THE NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1994

PRESIDENT SEEKING MORE QUAKE RELIEF

Wants to Add \$1.5 Billion for
Total of \$9 Billion in Aid

By GWEN IFILL

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 — President Clinton will ask for at least \$1.5 billion in additional Federal aid for victims of the Los Angeles earthquake, Administration officials said today, raising the proposed Federal commitment to earthquake relief to more than \$9 billion.

At least \$8 billion of that would be sought in a supplemental budget request officials are planning to send to Congress. The Government is already using \$897 million from an emergency fund to aid victims.

An Administration official said the new request would be directed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for aid in housing 25,000 people left homeless by the earthquake.

"The needs have turned out to be greater than expected," the official said.

Acknowledging Need

In authorizing the new expenditures, Mr. Clinton conceded that Gov. Pete Wilson of California was right in arguing that the Federal aid for the earthquake would fall far short of the need.

Last week, Mr. Clinton said he would ask Congress for \$6.6 billion in emergency money, a request that would make the earthquake the costliest natural disaster ever for Federal taxpayers. The earthquake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale of ground motion, killed 61 people and injured 8,000.

Leon E. Panetta, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, said at the time that he expected the figure to grow and has said since that the Federal Government should re-examine the way it pays for disaster aid.

"Somehow, we've got to do a better job in terms of preparing for disasters, either by setting aside some kind of fund to deal with disasters, or looking to insurance companies to try to deal with those areas that are particularly vulnerable to disasters," Mr. Panetta said in an interview on the Cable News Network.

Congress must specifically waive budget limits when it approves new disaster assistance, and the White House has acknowledged that the earthquake relief will add at least \$3 billion to the deficit.

Although states must normally match at least 25 percent of the Federal commitment, the Clinton Administration has relaxed that commitment for economically distressed California, requiring only a 10 percent match.

The Midwest floods last summer have cost the Government \$4.6 billion so far, and hurricane damage aid in 1993 surpassed \$8 billion, but that figure takes into account both Hurricane Andrew, which struck Florida and Louisiana, and Hurricane Iniki, which struck the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

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NEWS EXPRESS

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DAILY CLIPS

Special Edition
The Los Angeles Earthquake

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 1994

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