

World and Nation

Earthquake homeless count doubles

From Associated Press reports

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 13,000 people were reported homeless Wednesday, and officials warned more houses could be lost in landslides near earthquake fissures.

Children in the badly damaged Marina district returned to classes in their reopened school-turned-shelter.

As Congress moved forward with relief packages worth billions, a survey found many Bay area residents gave low marks to the federal response to last week's devastating quake.

California's Office of Emergency Services (OES) raised its count of displaced people to 13,892, nearly double the figure previously reported.

"There's more people out (at shelters) because of the recent rains," Bob Krueger of the OES said Wednesday, adding that a better reporting system also increased the tally.

"I'm taking it one day at a time right now," said Lynn Carrere, who was

being sheltered by the Red Cross at the Marina Middle School after her apartment was heavily damaged. "The aftershocks are really getting on my nerves."

Some students were upset to find 175 displaced people still in their school when it reopened.

"It's sort of wierd," said one girl. "We can't get to the gym. The yard is split in half for the Red Cross."

A boy said some students felt they had suffered enough.

Landslides in the Santa Cruz Mountains have already claimed scores of homes, and geologists warned of worse to come.

Because of rain, huge sections of land in Santa Cruz County cracked by earthquake fissures are in danger of sliding this winter and burying hundreds of homes.

"What's happening today is frightening to geologists who have looked at it," Professor Gary Griggs of the University of California, Santa Cruz, told

county supervisors Tuesday. "I think there's a cause for alarm, but not instant alarm until we've had more rain."

The Senate approved a \$3.45 billion quake relief package Wednesday, and sent it to the House, which had passed a \$2.85 billion measure just a day before. The Senate bill tacked on \$600 million for Small Business Administration emergency loans.

A survey in Wednesday's San Francisco Chronicle found 36 percent of Bay area residents polled found the federal response to the quake "fair" or "poor."

Forty-nine percent found it "excellent" or "good," compared with 72 percent who felt that way about the local government response and a 59 percent positive rating for the state.

Damage estimates have been set at \$7.1 billion.

Police said six people remained unaccounted for, and the death toll from the Oct. 17 quake remained at 63, in-

cluding 39 from the collapse of double-decked Interstate 880 in Oakland.

New aftershocks did not damage the structure as crews continued to dismantle it. An aftershock of 4.5, the strongest in four days, was registered at Tuesday evening, and a 3.7 shock followed Wednesday morning — the latest of about 3,500 aftershocks since the quake.

Buck Helm, the I-880 survivor, remained in serious but stable condition. "He's doing well," said Phyllis Brown, a spokeswoman for Highland General Hospital in Oakland.

Also improving were 6-year-old Julio Berumen and his 8-year-old sister, Cathy, who lost their mother in the I-880 collapse. Some 500 letters to the children and more than \$25,000 in checks have flooded a fund set up at Summit Bank in Oakland.

On Wednesday, BankAmerica Corp., announced it would give \$1.1 million to quake relief programs.

Subpoena said to threaten institution of presidency

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department said Wednesday that a court decision allowing former President Reagan's papers to be subpoenaed for an Iran-Contra trial "raised a serious question" about the institution of the presidency.

Comments by chief spokesman David Runkel appeared to signal that top Justice Department officials were studying the possibility of supporting Reagan in any challenge to subpoenas for notes and diaries for use as evidence by former National Security Adviser John Poindexter.

Runkel emphasized that the department has not formulated a position on Tuesday's ruling by the trial judge in Poindexter's case and wouldn't do so without consulting Reagan's private attorney.

But the spokesman said, "The judge's decision would allow for the subpoenaing of material from President Reagan that dealt with discussions he had when he was president. We intend to take a look at that."

Bush to announce safety move

WASHINGTON — Moving to ease consumer concerns over food safety, President Bush is preparing to announce a streamlining of regulations so that dangerous chemicals can be taken off the market more quickly, sources said Wednesday.

The administration's new policy for dealing with pesticides and other chemicals in foods is aimed at giving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greater flexibility in dealing with food safety issues.

EPA Administrator William Reilly declined on Wednesday to provide details of the impending policy announcement, but told reporters "it's responsive to a number of problems this agency has had in administering our pesticide law."

News in Brief

Man approaches Quayle's car

WASHINGTON — A man who slugged Sen. John Glenn Wednesday after muttering "the earthquakes are starting" had been detained by police Tuesday after approaching Vice President Dan Quayle's motorcade, officials said.

Michael Breen, who was arrested after hitting Glenn in the jaw at a tree-planting ceremony, was the same man detained for two hours Tuesday after breaking through a police line and trying to approach Quayle's motorcade, U.S. Capitol police said.

Breen, 31, of Washington, tried to pass a letter to Quayle's motorcade but was stopped before he got close to the car, said a Capitol Police spokesman. Breen was not arrested Tuesday, the spokesman said.

Warhead ingredient disappears

WASHINGTON — Three-quarters of a test shipment of tritium, a key ingredient in nuclear warheads, was lost between buildings at a Tennessee weapons plant, according to government documents released Wednesday.

The documents said investigators could not rule out theft as an explanation for the disappearance, though no evidence of a theft could be found.

Ironically, the test was arranged as part of an internal investigation at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory into the cause of discrepancies in the amount of tritium shipped from the lab to commercial buyers.

Jim Alexander, an Oak Ridge spokesman, said Wednesday he did not know whether the tritium in the test shipment had been recovered. He said efforts to resolve the discrepancies in commercial shipments dating back to 1985 were continuing.

East Germany to allow more foreign travel

From Associated Press reports

BERLIN — New leader Egon Krenz said Wednesday he will let East Germans travel abroad more freely but made clear that the Berlin Wall, a scar on the city for near three decades, will not come down.

In further signs the communist nation is moving toward at least limited reform, the official news agency ADN carried a series of reports that included a news conference by police to address accusations of brutality and a dispatch quoting a prominent dissident.

Tens of thousands of young, skilled workers have fled to West Germany since September and throngs of protesters fill the streets at home to demand reforms in this rigid society.

Late Wednesday, about 200 people carrying burning candles marched silently through downtown East Berlin. Police first stopped the protesters but

let them proceed after a brief discussion. No slogans were shouted.

The marchers joined about 2,000 people at a vigil at a church at Alexanderplatz and later dispersed peacefully.

ADN said Wednesday night that about 20,000 people joined in what it called a "march of hope" in the center of Neubrandenburg, a city north of Berlin.

The marchers called for talks with authorities, so the city's mayor, Heinz Hahn, promised talks with citizens, ADN said.

With the comment that "no one will be left out of the dialogue," Krenz said Wednesday the new officials' willingness to discuss reforms may extend to members of pro-democracy groups. He and the party previously rejected talks with the opposition. Krenz, who last week replaced Erich Honecker as Communist Party chief, also said

Wednesday he was interested in meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, but "one has to understand that I have to first attend to domestic political problems."

He said he planned to discuss a summit date by telephone with Kohl, who said Tuesday he was ready for a meeting.

Krenz spoke after meeting with Wolfgang Mischnick, parliamentary leader of the Free Democrats, junior partner in Kohl's coalition.

Mischnick was the first senior West German politician to see Krenz since the ouster of Honecker, 77, a hard-liner who ran the country for 18 years and was Krenz's mentor.

Krenz told reporters who accompanied Mischnick that East Germans would be given greater freedom of travel by year's end.

Under a more liberal law proposed

by the Communist Party's ruling Politburo, passports and exit visas would be available for travel to any other country. It also would drop current requirements that family members remain behind as insurance the travelers would return home.

Officials in East Berlin say financial obstacles must still be resolved. East German marks are not exchangeable outside the country, and officials are unlikely to release much of their hard-currency reserves for Western travel.

Strict curbs on foreign travel have been a prime source of complaint by East Germans, joining with limits on speech and political activity to propel the mass exodus.

A Western reporter asked whether easier travel to the West would make the Berlin Wall obsolete. Krenz said, "The wall has a very different meaning than what is implied in your question."

House upholds Bush veto on abortion aid

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Bush's veto of a bill to provide abortion assistance to impoverished victims of rape and incest was sustained in the House on Wednesday as a 231-191 vote to override him fell 51 votes short of the necessary two-thirds margin.

Though narrow in scope, the bill carried symbolic importance in the widening political struggle over the abortion issue, and proponents took their loss with a vow to keep the president's feet to the fire. But Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., called it "a decisive victory for the pro-life movement."

"The president won a legislative victory today with use of a legislative minority," said Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore. "He will put his party at tremendous risk in the next election, and some of his allies on the House floor will not be returned."

A Republican who supported the bill, Rep. Bill Green of New York, said

"President Bush may well have stumbled on the one issue that could cost him re-election."

The vote, in which 42 Republicans joined 189 Democrats in the unsuccessful bid to enact the bill over the president's veto, left intact an 8-year-old ban of federal financing of abortions for poor women, except when their lives are threatened.

The disputed provision would have permitted Medicaid abortions for women who are victims of rape or incest, and who "reported promptly" to authorities. It was part of a spending bill that now goes back to the House Appropriations Committee for revision.

Smith and other abortion opponents said the vote demonstrated they can overcome future efforts to weaken the prohibition on most Medicaid abortions, adding that it shows the political ground has not shifted in favor of abortion rights, as some strategists argue.

"They made the mistake of thinking

this was a one-round fight," said Rep. Vin Weber, R-Minn.

"Some members who were panicked by pro-abortion propaganda in the last few weeks are going to be surprised, because the final tale hasn't been told on how this issue is cutting across the countryside," he said. "We're now beginning to see some victories on our side of the issue."

The House vote came two weeks after pro-choice lawmakers surprised even themselves by winning on a 216-206 vote that added the amendment expanding Medicaid abortions to the appropriations bill for labor, health and education programs. It was the first time in nearly a decade of trying that the more liberal language had passed the House, although it had easily cleared the Senate.

Abortion-rights supporters picked up 15 votes on the override vote. But some of those who switched positions said they did so for other reasons, since the

vote affected the entire \$156.7 billion spending bill.

Fifty-nine Democrats and 132 Republicans voted to sustain the veto.

Eleven members did not vote, including Rep. James Courter, a Republican who is running for New Jersey governor and who has been accused of waffling on the abortion issue. His opponent, Democratic Rep. James Florio, voted to override and later said Courter "chose to say this was not an issue of enough importance to adjust his schedule to be here."

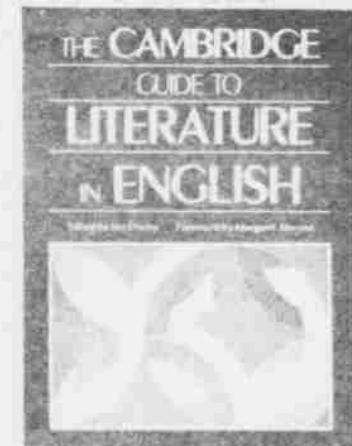
Smith, the anti-abortion leader, attributed most of the switches to other issues but said there were "a few marginal members who have capitulated."

House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., said Democrats had not decided on their next move. House Democratic whip, Bill Gray, D-Pa., said he did not think Democrats would attempt to add similar abortion language again to the same appropriations bill.

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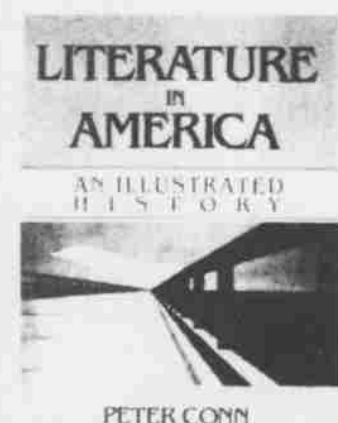
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Poland's secret police try to fit reform model

From Associated Press reports

WARSAW, Poland — The secret police will disband undercover units and turn off listening devices to try to win back "public acceptance and prestige" and a place in Poland's reforms, commanders said Wednesday.

CORRECTION

A coupon running in the 1990 class schedule booklet advertising \$50 off standardized test preparation is for the **Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Center**, 2634 Chapel Hill Blvd. in Durham. 489-8720 or 489-2348

Freed from watching opposition activists — many now hold posts in the East bloc's first non-communist government — security forces can turn to fighting an alarming rise in property crimes spawned by Poland's economic crisis, the officials said.

"The functionalities of the security service not only fully accept these changes, but are aware that the changes are irreversible," said Jerzy Karpacz, deputy chief of the secret police.

"If any are found with a different view, they will have to leave the force," Karpacz was joined by the deputy commander of the police and the spokesman for the Interior Ministry at a news conference that opened the secret department to unusual scrutiny.

"It is obvious that the understanding, interpretation and realization of the job of ... the Interior Ministry depends directly on the broader social and political conditions of the country," said spokesman Wojciech Garstka.

"That is why there will be changes — perhaps the deepest in postwar history — in the way some responsibilities in the Interior Ministry will be implemented."

The despised secret police long symbolized Communist control by fear. They are remembered as executors of Stalinist purges, clandestine monitors of the opposition and interrogators of activists.

Three rogue officers and their commander from the so-called "Third Department," which spied on religious associations, were convicted of the 1984 kidnapping and murder of Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, a charismatic Solidarity priest whose bound body was dumped in a river.

The third department and five other units, including those responsible for surveillance of citizens' loyalty and protection of the agricultural, manufacturing and arms industries, have been liquidated in the reform drive, Garstka said.

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