

THE DAY IN THE DAKOTAS

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(FLOOD-FINCH)

(RAPID CITY)--PRESIDENTIAL CONSELOR ROBERT FINCH VISITED FLOOD-RAVAGED RAPID CITY TODAY AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT NIXON. FINCH, SAID, AFTER ^{A QUICK} ~~AN~~ AIR TOUR OF THE CITY, THAT THE NUMBER ONE CURRENT PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE SHORT-TERM HOUSEKEEPING AND SHELTER NEEDS. FINCH MET WITH STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, WHO ARE AMONG THE THOUSANDS ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE ORDER TO THE CITY.... WHERE RAGING FLOOD WATERS FRIDAY NIGHT TOOK MORE THAN 200 LIVES. FINCH--AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN RAPID CITY--SAID "NO MATTER HOW EFFECTIVE AN OPERATION IS, IT TAKES TIME TO GET EVERYTHING MOBILIZED." HE SAID..."IT WAS AN ACT OF GOD THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD HAPPENED TO BE IN ON DUTY AND IN TRAINING NEAR RAPID CITY," WHEN THE FLOODS CAME. FINCH FLEW OVER THE AREA HIT BY THE FLOOD AND SAID THE DAMAGE "BOGGLES THE MIND." HE SAID THE PRESIDENT TELEPHONED HIM IN CALIFORNIA YESTERDAY--REQUESTING THAT HE STOP AND ASSES THE SITUATION AND TO MEET WITH OTHER FEDERAL , STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS.

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