

THE FLOOD WATERS HAVE RECEDED, BUT THE PILES OF DEBRIS LEFT BEHIND POSE A HUGE PROBLEM FOR RAPID CITY AND OTHER BLACK HILLS COMMUNITIES. VOLUNTEERS ARE BEING ASSIGNED TO THE MANY AREAS OF THE FLOODED PORTION OF RAPID CITY WHERE THE CLEAN-UP EFFORT IS MADE PARTICULARLY URGENT BY THE CONTINUING SEARCH FOR MORE BODIES. THE LAST REPORT LAST NIGHT WAS THAT 208 PERSONS HAD DIED, BUT THE NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO RISE AGAIN THIS MORNING. AND THUS FAR THE SEARCH HAS BEEN MOSTLY IN THE RAPID CITY AND RAPID CANYON AREAS... RURAL AND MORE SPARSELY SETTLED AREAS STILL MUST BE SEARCHED.

AT THE SAME FEDERAL AND STATE EFFORTS ARE BEING COORDINATED TO AID LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE PROBLEMS OF REBUILDING. ALL FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES HAVE PLEDGED THAT THE AREA WILL HAVE ALL THE HELP THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO GIVE.

ONE OF THE MOST URGENT NEEDS, ~~XXXXXX~~ EXCEPT FOR THE CLEAN-UP TASK, WILL BE THE LOCATION OF HOUSING FOR THE MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND PERSONS LEFT HOMELESS BY THE FLOODS. FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY SAID

THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A PROGRAM OF PROVIDING MOBILE HOMES, RENT-FREE, AS TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR PERSONS WHOSE HOMES WERE MADE UNLIVEABLE.

THE DEVASTATION ~~WAS~~ COVERS AN ESTIMATED 25-HUNDRED ACRES IN RAPID CITY AND RAPID CANYON, BUT WAS NOT LIMITED TO THAT. FLOODS CAUSED LOSS OF LIFE AND EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE ~~XX~~ ALONG BOXELDER CREEK TO THE NORTH OF RAPID CITY, AND ALONG SPRING CREEK AND BATTLE CREEK TO THE SOUTH. FLOODING ALSO CAUSED PROPERTY DAMAGE ALONG BEAR BUTTE CREEK IN STURGIS, AND FRENCH CREEK IN CUSTER, BUT THOSE TWO COMMUNITIES HAVE NOT REPORTED ANY LOSS OF LIFE.