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THE DAKOTAS NOON NEWS ROUNDUP

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(FLOOD)

(RAPID CITY)--~~SEARCH~~ SEARCH CREWS--USING DOGS--COMBED THE MUDDY RUINS OF RAPID CITY LAST NIGHT IN THE GRIM TASK OF UNCOVERING BODIES.

AUTHORITIES SAID EARLY TODAY THAT MORE THAN 230 PERSONS WERE KNOWN DEAD FROM THE FLOOD THAT SWEEPED THROUGH RAPID CITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY.

RAPID CITY'S 29-YEAR-OLD MAYOR--DON BARNETT--SAYS "I WOULD ESTIMATE A COMBINED DEATH TOTAL OF 300 FOR THE WHOLE TRAGEDY." GOVERNOR RICHARD KNEIP SAYS "WE HAVE IN EXCESS OF 200 DEATHS AND THERE'S A LONG WAY TO GO YET. IT'S BELIEVED MANY BODIES ARE BELOW THE MUD AND THE MIRE, THAT PART IS BAD."

SEARCH CREWS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON A VIRTUALLY DEVASTATED FIVE-BLOCK WIDE AREA ALONG RAPID CREEK--THE STREAM WHICH CUTS THROUGH THE CITY AND WHICH TURNED INTO A SWOLLEN, SLUGGING KILLER WHEN CANYON LAKE DAM BURST FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE FLOOD CAUSED AN ESTIMATED 100-MILLION DOLLARS DAMAGE-- DESTROYED 500 HOMES AND LEFT APPROXIMATELY ¹⁵⁰⁰~~3~~-PERSONS HOMELESS.

THERE IS STILL LITTLE ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE AS TO ^{WHAT}~~WHAT~~ HAPPENED IN THE MORE ISOLATED AREAS OF THE BLACK HILLS--PARTICULARLY TO THE HUNDREDS--AND PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS--BELIEVED TO BE CAMPING IN THE AREA CLOSE BY MOUNT RUSHMORE.

THE FLOOD RANKS AS THE NATION'S WORST SINCE 1937--WHEN THE MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RIVERS TOOK 250 LIVES.

(RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA)---AUTHORITIES HAVE EXTENDED THE SEARCH AREA FOR VICTIMS OF THE FLOODS THAT STRUCK RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA, LAST FRIDAY NIGHT. RANCHERS UP TO 60 MILES SOUTH AND EAST OF RAPID CITY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CHECK STREAM BEDS FOR BODIES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED ALONG BY THE FLOOD WATERS THAT ROARED OUT OF THE BLACK HILLS. THE LATEST COUNT OF KNOWN VICTIMS IS 211...BUT OFFICIALS SAY THERE MAY BE SOME CONFUSION IN THE COUNT BECAUSE OF DUPLICATION. AND NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY ARE MISSING. NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WITH BULLDOZERS AND CRANES MOVED INTO ONE HOUSING AREA TODAY TO DIG FOR MORE POSSIBLE VICTIMS.