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THE DAY IN THE DAKOTAS

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Radio

(FLOOD)

(RAPID CITY)-- GOVERNOR RICHARD KNEIP TODAY ASSURED SOUTH DAKOTANS THAT TOURISTS CAN EASILY BE HANDLED IN THE BLACK HILLS DESPITE THE DEVASTATING RAPID CITY FLOOD. HE SAID... "WE CAN NOW MOVE PEOPLE ANYPLACE IN THE BLACK HILLS." THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE RAPID CITY FLOOD AS A TRAGEDY IN TERMS OF LIVES AND PROPERTY BUT SAYS "WE DON'T WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE ADDITIONAL TRAGEDY OF FALLING STATE ECONOMY IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS TO COME."

IN A SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE WITH MAYOR DON BARNETT AND HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER JACK ALLMON, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE IDEA THAT THE ENTIRE BLACK HILLS WAS DEVASTATED WAS SSIMPLY NOT TRUE. ALLMON SAYS ONLY ONE ROAD--HIGHWAY 14A FROM STURGIS TO DEADWOOD WILL NOT BE REOPENED FOR THE TOURIST SEASON THIS YEAR. HE SAYS A FEW ROADS IN THE FOUR COUNTY AREA ARE PRESENTLY IMPASSABLE-- BUT WILL BE REOPENED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

KNEIP ALSO SAYYS HE IS NOT CONSIDERING RIGHT NOW CALLING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE IN CONNECTION WITH NEEDED FUNDS FOR RESTORATION OF RAPID CITY. HE SAYS HE IS FINDING ALL THE TIME ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE FLOOD STRICKEN AREA.

MAYOR DON BARNETT SAYS CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS IN RAPID CITY IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL BE IN FULL SWING. IN BARNETT'S WORDS... "THE WORK CREWS ARE HAULING 275-LOADS PER HOUR OF DEBRIS, GARBAGE AND JUNK--AND THAT STARTED ON MONDAY."

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