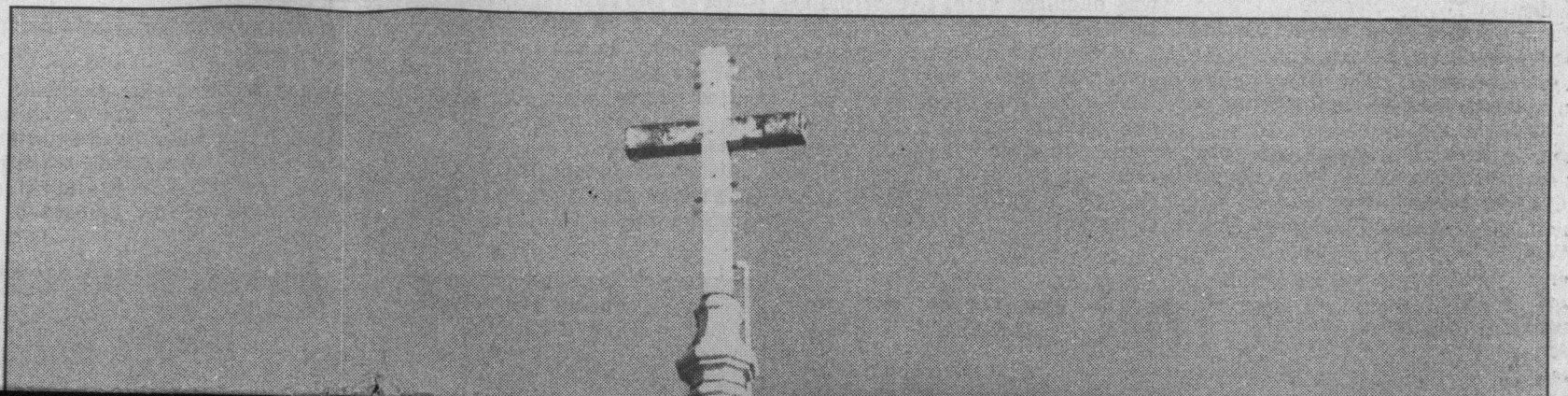


Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Shoppers gather at a market at Washington and Laurel streets Tuesday night following the massive earthquake.

# Feds rally with relief

Panetta, Campbell





# return home and offer assistance

By BILL MANNY  
Ottaway News Service

WASHINGTON — Federal officials moved quickly Wednesday to provide disaster relief to stricken California communities, and Central California congressmen returned home to assess damage and offer their assistance with relief efforts.

Relief efforts were mounted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, the Agriculture Department, even the FBI.

At a crowded command center in a federal building here, government officials paraded before reporters to promise assistance. The Department of Housing Urban Development offered temporary housing in foreclosed homes that were undamaged by the quake; the Department of Agriculture has sent food from state school lunch program warehouses to the disaster areas; the FBI has offered its assistance, including in the identification of bodies.

FEMA, the primary federal disaster agency, said today that President Bush's declaration of the stricken California communities as federal disaster areas would make available temporary housing, grants, and low-cost loans to cover uninsured private and business property losses, in addition to emergency assistance.

The declaration will make available money for local governments to pay for removing debris, emergency measures to ensure safety of public property, as well as to repair or replace damaged public property.

The call went out to west coast Red Cross field centers for cots, blankets, food and other supplies; 300 units of blood were shipped from southern California to San Jose as a precautionary measure, said Red Cross spokeswoman Sally Stewart.

Red Cross officials said they opened emergency shelters in Santa Cruz and Watsonville, and housed 2,500 people in three San Francisco shelters Tuesday night. Other shelters were opened in Mountain View, Los Gatos, Redwood City and Berkeley. The Red Cross put up people in such unlikely emergency shelter locations as the south terminal at San Francisco International Airport, and in the

Sheraton, Ramada and Embassy Suites hotels.

The prompt government response Tuesday may have been aided by a drill in August organized by FEMA and local California emergency agencies to test local disaster response and plug holes in local disaster plans.

The scenario for that test? A San Francisco earthquake at 7.3 on the Richter Scale.

"They're readier now than they ever would have been," said FEMA spokeswoman Peg Maloy.

Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Monterey, and Tom Campbell, R-Stanford, left on military aircraft early this morning for California, where they landed at Moffett Naval Air Field.

Asked this morning what Campbell's office knew about the situation in the Monterey Bay area, Campbell spokesman Greg Stohr said, "Not enough."

He said Campbell's district offices in Gilroy, Scotts Valley and Sunnyvale would be used as locations for people to apply for disaster relief. Campbell's office said if people cannot reach the Scotts Valley office (telephone 438-7985), where phone contact had not been re-established, they could call the Washington office at 202-225-5411.

Panetta aides were making similar plans for his district offices in Santa Cruz at 701 Ocean Street (telephone 429-1976).

"We're going to do everything we can to help," Stohr said.

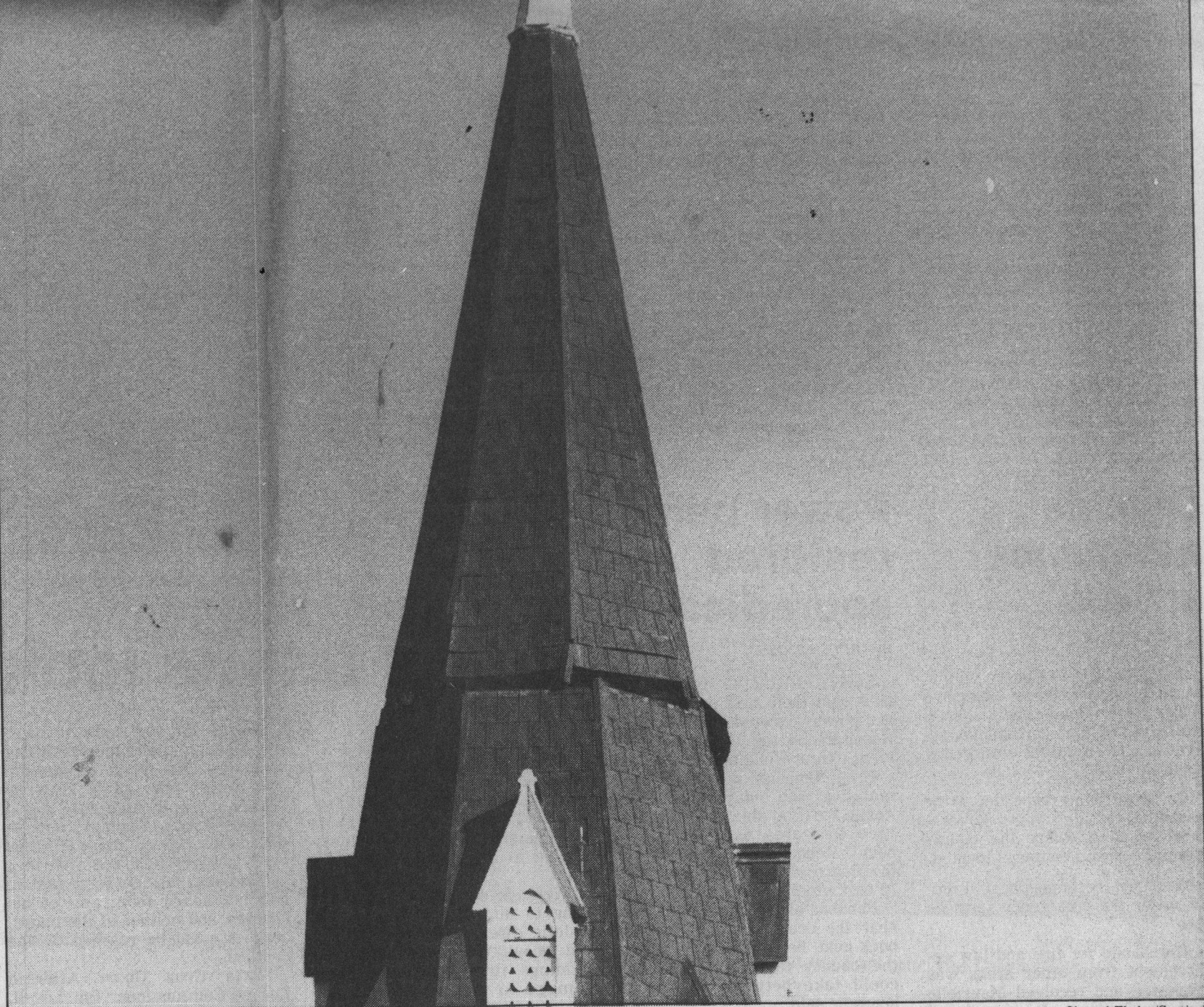
The earthquake disaster in California, coming on the heels of the massive destruction wrought by Hurricane Hugo on the Caribbean and the Carolinas, is taxing the federal government's relief budget and the FEMA staff.

"We're pretty thin, but we'll do it," said FEMA spokesman Russell Clanahan.

Clanahan said that the back-to-back disasters was the greatest demand on the nation's emergency response network since the explosion of Mount St. Helens in 1980.

"It's been a bad month, money-wise and every other way," said Stewart, of the Red Cross.

But Stewart noted that some of the donations to the Red Cross targeted for Hugo victims — many from California — would probably now end up back in the Golden State.



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Holy Cross Church steeple in Santa Cruz suffered damage in Tuesday's quake.

## Officials emphasize need to save water

By JAMIE MARKS  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Officials were urging people to conserve water, as local supplies are sporadic.

Larry Pearson, public information officer, said the Santa Cruz water supply is good but the distribution is poor.

The system is "bleeding," Pearson said, with 20 to 30 leaks. He is urging everyone to conserve their supply and boil it to be sure it is

safe for drinking.

There is a three-day supply of water at Bay Street, Pearson said. Live Oak's water supply is poor, Pearson added.

Loch Lomond reservoir, which is the city's biggest supply of water, is OK, but Pearson said the city will be able to supply water and check for leaks. The water is still undrinkable without boiling.

Soquel Creek County Water officials were asking customers to

limit their usage to 20 gallons a day.

However, they said the supply was safe to drink.

In Watsonville, City Manager John Radin said the city's 9 million-gallon reservoir was drained because of broken water mains throughout the city.

A 14-inch water main and an 8-inch line were completely broken, as were several smaller lines, Radin said.

"We've still got water in most areas of the city, but it's hardly a trickle in other areas. The water pressure's low because our reservoir is empty," Radin said.

"We do need to conserve water, because we have a limited number of wells working," Radin said.

City officials were asking people to take precautions by boiling water, or adding eight drops of Clorox and letting it sit for 30 minutes.