

Supplies pour into Kauai as relief effort gains steam

LIHUE, Hawaii — Military police cleared roads of palm fronds, telephone poles and roof shingles Monday, and residents whose homes were smashed by nature's whim wondered when their lives might return to normal.

Hurricane Iniki had turned the tropical paradise of Kauai topsy-turvy, and an approaching storm threatened to add to the disorder.

Neighboring islands in the Hawaiian chain were ferrying in field kitchens and portable showers, bulldozers and generators, engineers and carpenters.

Limited phone service was restored for some of Kauai's 52,000 residents. About half the island had running water. And electrical power was expected to be restored to the largest town of Lihue by next Monday.

"I'm really surprised at the speed at which they are doing it," said Hawaii civil defense planner Glenn Soma. "They have so much aloha spirit from the other islands, people sending in equipment, supplies, everything else. It's incredible."

Iniki, the most powerful hurricane to hit Hawaii this century, roared across the lightly populated western end of Kauai on Friday, leveling sugar plantations and churning up the eastern and southern shore where most people live, and where luxury hotels and tourist bungalows abound.

Federal officials said 10,000 of the island's 21,000 homes were badly damaged by sustained wind of 130 mph and 160 mph gusts. Most of the 70 hotels sustained serious damage.

More than 7,000 people were crowded into shelters.

The hurricane was blamed for at least three deaths, including one in a town east of Honolulu on Oahu Island, which lies across the 80-mile-wide Kauai Channel. About 100 people were injured.

The Coast Guard searched between Kauai and Niihau, a small neighboring island that sustained only minor damage, for two people reported aboard a sailboat that sank as Iniki hit. A 50-year-old Kauai man who also was on the boat was rescued Saturday after clinging to an ice chest for 21 hours.

Authorities said later that the search was suspended indefinitely. Federal and state officials planned to begin

ground surveys of the damage, which Gov. John Waihee estimated at \$1 billion. Oahu escaped the worst of the storm, with an estimated \$2.5 million damage to 163 private buildings.

Federal disaster officials directed a round-the-clock airlift of supplies. More than 800 members of the National Guard were brought in to assist.

Moderate rain from a tropical depression south of the islands was forecast to reach Kauai by midday, along with 10-25 mph wind.

The only danger was that "we may get a little wet," civil defense vice director Roy Price said. Heavy showers caused minor flooding on Hawaii Island's eastern coast early Monday.

Germans cut interest rates, greenback rebounds slightly

BONN, Germany — Germany cut key interest rates for the first time in five years Monday, an action the United States and European Community nations had urged for months to help spur a world economic recovery.

Stocks shot up in New York and other financial markets. The cuts by the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, could ease pressures on the U.S. economy and improve the prospects for French approval of a treaty for European political and monetary union in a referendum this Sunday.

Germany's high rates have attracted investments and drawn money away from other currencies, helping to drive the dollar to an all-time low against the mark in recent weeks.

The cut was part of a European Community agreement Sunday to devalue the weakening Italian lira against the mark and other Euro-

pean currencies in exchange for a reduction in German interest rates.

On Monday the Bundesbank lowered its Lombard rate from 9.75 percent to 9.50 percent and cut the discount rate from 8.75 percent to 8.25 percent.

There was an immediate reaction on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials shot up 35 points in the first half hour of trading and by more than 65 points to 3371.08 by early afternoon.

Prices also rallied in London but lost ground when the cuts were smaller than investors had hoped. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 shares closed up 51.2 points, at 2,422.1, after jumping by about 100 points.

In Frankfurt, the dollar rocketed to 1.4985 marks at the currency exchange opening, but settled back to 1.4780 at the close. The greenback closed at 1.4340 marks on Friday.

Bush, Clinton trade jibes over trees, owls and jobs

COLVILLE, Wash. — President Bush battled Democrat Bill Clinton for votes in the Pacific Northwest on Monday, declaring that environmental laws should be changed to "make people more important than owls."

Bush vowed not to sign an extension of the Endangered Species Act unless it's rewritten to give more emphasis to economic priorities and timber harvesting.

Clinton maintained that he was the candidate who could best promote economic development while at the same time preserving the environment.

"I know that you can be pro-growth and pro-environment," the Democratic nominee told a crowd in Portland, Ore.

Bush told a cheering audience at a lumber company near the Canadian border that the balance between the environment and jobs has been lost.

"It is time to make people more important than owls," he said. "It's time to put the mills back to work."

Bush delivered his promise on a trip through timber- and spotted-owl country of Washington and Oregon, accusing Clinton of favoring the environment rather than jobs. Thousands of timber workers have lost their jobs because of protection of the owl and an industry slump.

Clinton maintains that the Republicans are asking voters to make a false choice between jobs and the environment.

"Bush gave us neither. We think you can have both," said Bruce Reed, one of Clinton's domestic policy advisers. "The choice is between George Bush and jobs."

"It's amazing to me that after 804

days of denying that a recession exists, here, 50 days before the election, my opponent has discovered a plan for America's renewal," Clinton said.

Clinton traveled to Eugene, Ore., where he was visiting with five families whose lives have been affected by changes in the timber industry.

He has called for a summit on the spotted owl — an idea that Bush derided as "false hope."

"No more studies, let's change the law," Bush said. "My opponent will not fight to change the law to restore balance."

The 19-year-old Endangered Species Act has protected more than 500 animals and plants, including the bald eagle, grizzly bear, peregrine falcon and whooping crane.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in June 1990, citing excessive logging of old-growth forests as a threat to its survival.

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Self-diagnosis

Doctors ask government to limit health-care costs

WASHINGTON — The nation's second-largest physicians' group urged the government Monday to cap their fees and establish a health care system much like the one proposed by Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

The White House replied "not a chance" when asked if the president could endorse the proposal.

The American College of Physicians, representing some 77,000 doctors of internal medicine, said the government should limit the amount of money spent overall in this country on health care, and said the states should negotiate fee limits with doctors and hospitals.

Dr. John Ball, executive vice president of the organization, said it is not endorsing one political candidate over another, but he did admit the doctors were calling for something quite similar to a proposal by the Democratic presidential nominee.

"There are a number of elements of our plan that are very close to the Clinton plan," Ball said.

In addition to calling for government regulation of their fees, the group urged the extension of medical coverage to everybody in the country, either through private or public insurance. It also called for consolidation of the Medicare and Medicaid systems, which provide health care for the elderly and poor, respectively.

Like the Clinton plan, the doctors were not

specific about how much public money would be needed to finance it, at least initially. They said they hoped the money would come from what is being spent on health care already, so the net effect on the economy would be neutral in the beginning. The savings would come later, when costs would rise less rapidly than they are now, the doctors said.

The doctors' proposal was endorsed by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Sens. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., Robert Kerrey, D-Neb., and James Jeffords, R-Vt., as well as representatives from Chrysler Corp. and the American Association for Retired Persons.

The White House was unimpressed. "It is very destructive of innovation and change," said Gail Wilensky, an adviser to President Bush on health care issues, adding, "It is absolutely contrary to what we are doing."

The cost-containment part of the plan was dead on arrival on the White House doorstep, she said.

Asked if the president could endorse such an idea, she replied: "Not a chance."

The Bush administration has opposed such plans for their similarity to the Canadian health care system. The Republicans have equated the Canadian system with socialized medicine, which they say would lead to rationing of health care services.

The plan is not a new idea, but it is new for doctors to endorse something that would limit their charges.

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