

Earthquake

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be trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings.

Officers patrolled streets in the early morning darkness to guard against looting, as police helicopters aimed their spotlights on shattered storefronts below.

Residents unsettled by continuing aftershocks huddled on sidewalks and held candles. They packed their belongings into cars. Many drove aimlessly on darkened streets and freeways.

The quake struck at 4:31 a.m. and was centered in Northridge in the San Fernando Valley. It measured a preliminary 6.6 on the Richter scale, said Kate Hutton, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology.

The jolts shook buildings in San Diego, 125 miles south, and in Las Vegas, about 275 miles to the northeast. Brief power outages caused by the quake were reported as far north as British Columbia and western Wyoming.

Gov. Pete Wilson and Mayor Richard Riordan declared emergencies, and President Clinton dispatched Federal Emergency Management Agency chief James Lee Witt to California to supervise relief efforts.

"We intend to do everything we

possibly can to help the people of Los Angeles and southern California to deal with the earthquake and its aftermath," Clinton said from Washington, D.C.

The city Department of Water and Power urged residents to boil drinking water contaminated by broken mains. At midday, at least 625,000 customers were without power in Central and Southern California, Southern California Edison said.

Long-distance phone companies routed calls away from the region to prevent communication gridlock.

California National Guard troops were sent in, and the Office of Emergency Services sent about 300 search-and-rescue teams equipped with fiber-optic sensors and other gear to detect structural flaws and find possible victims.

A 75-foot-high overpass connecting state Highway 14 and Interstate 5 in suburban Sylmar collapsed, killing a Los Angeles police motorcycle officer, city Fire Department spokesman Jim Wells said.

Two people died when a home in Sherman Oaks slid down a hillside; a person was killed in a fall from a sixth-floor window at a downtown hotel; and five people died of quake-related heart attacks, hospital officials said.

A 37-year-old Rancho Cucamonga woman died after she slipped and hit

Major earthquake hits Southern California



her head on a baby crib, breaking her neck, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"We've seen heart attacks, dislocated bones, lacerations. A lot of blood," said Toni Regalado, an emergency room admissions officer at Holy Cross Medical Center in Sylmar.

At least 44 homes in suburban Sylmar were destroyed by fire unleashed by the quake.

The quake was felt for 30 seconds, and several aftershocks followed within minutes, some as strong as magnitude-5.

Clinton says European trip accomplished all his goals

WASHINGTON — Claiming unqualified success on his European trip, President Clinton predicts Boris Yeltsin will "try to hang in there" with Russia's economic reforms. And he says his lengthy meeting with Syria's president produced notable progress toward a Middle East peace.

Clinton disputed the notion that the resignation of Yegor Gaidar, the architect of President Yeltsin's economic reforms, will shake international confidence in Russia's transformation.

"Gaidar left the government once before and the reforms didn't stop," Clinton said.

He said Yeltsin had told him privately last week in Moscow that Gaidar was leaving.

On another foreign policy front, Clinton said Syrian President Hafez Assad has truly concluded that peace in the Middle East is best for his people and his own legacy.

"He's very tough and very smart," Clinton said of Assad. The two men met for more than five hours in Geneva on Sunday, and the Syrian president emerged to say he was willing to offer Israel "normal, peaceful relations" in exchange for land.

Clinton was tired but upbeat after the arduous eight-day, six-nation journey.

"Looking back over the trip," Clinton said of his first European journey as president, "I can say without any hesitation that it met all of our objectives—everything that we hoped would happen did."

Clinton said his meeting in Geneva with Assad was "clearly the biggest step forward" — and maybe even bigger — since the White House handshake Sept. 13 between the Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Today was the first time he (Assad) had ever explicitly said he wanted an end to the hostilities with Israel — willing to make peace with Israel as opposed to saying something like, 'peace in the Middle East,'" the president said.



President Bill Clinton

Last-minute textile deal averts Chinese trade war

WASHINGTON — The United States withdrew an order Monday that would have barred more than \$1 billion in textile imports from China after an 11th-hour agreement averted a trade war.

After three days of negotiations in Beijing, both sides signed a new three-year pact covering textile and apparel shipments from China to the United States.

The agreement will limit the growth in Chinese textile and apparel imports to the United States while providing new powers to stop illegal transshipments, which circumvent U.S. quotas by routing Chinese products through third countries.

The U.S. industry had claimed these illegal shipments were worth \$2 billion annually and cost 50,000 U.S. jobs.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said he hoped the new agreement would be the beginning of "a much healthier and more productive relationship" with the Chinese.

He insisted there was no link between resolution of the textile dispute

and other tensions between the two countries. These include administration charges that China has not done enough yet in the human rights area to justify renewal of "most-favored-nation" low tariffs on Chinese goods shipped here.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen was scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday for three days of talks with Chinese officials on a broad range of human rights and economic issues. President Clinton must decide by June whether to extend China's low tariffs.

Kantor had originally threatened to cut quotas by 25 percent to 35 percent on 88 categories of Chinese cloth products.

Kantor said the new restrictions would not have a significant impact on American consumers and were deemed justified to protect American jobs.

Through the first 10 months of this year, America's trade deficit with China has been running at an annual rate of \$23 billion, second only to America's \$58 billion annual trade deficit with Japan.

Harding says she is innocent

PORTLAND, Ore. — Figure skater Tonya Harding said she played no part in the clubbing attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan and was "shocked and angry" that anyone close to her might be involved.

Her former husband, Jeff Gillooly, also denied participating in this "bizarre and crazy event," his lawyer, Ron Hoebet, told The Associated Press.

No charges have been filed naming Gillooly or Harding in the Jan. 6 attack in Detroit that forced Kerrigan to withdraw from the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Multnomah County Assistant District Attorney Norm Frink said Monday he has scheduled a meeting with the skater, but not her ex-husband.

"We've been asking to meet with Tonya since Thursday. We finally have a tentative time to meet with her, but the husband is no response," Frink said.

Frink refused to say when the meeting was scheduled.

Kerrigan, meanwhile, skated publicly this morning for the first time since she was hurt, practicing

for one hour at an ice rink in her home town of Stoneham, Mass.

She had no limp or visible effect from the attack.

Harding also practiced, in Portland, and said she was trying to cope with the situation as best she could.

"It's an obstacle to get over and I may not be the normal figure skater image that everybody wants me to be, but I'm my own person and I may be a little rough around the edges sometimes, but overall I think I'm a good person," she said on ABC's "Good Morning, America."

Harding's bodyguard, Shawn Eckardt, was charged along with two other men, but her lawyer, Dennis Rawlinson, said Harding had no knowledge of the plot.

"Tonya Harding categorically denies all accusations and media speculation that she was involved in any way in the assault," according to her statement read by Rawlinson, her coach's husband.

Eckardt has accused Gillooly of participating in the plot. Hoebet

said Eckardt was hired only once to help with Harding's security and that he should not be considered her bodyguard.

Harding believes Gillooly is innocent and would distance herself from him if it turns out he was involved in the attack, said her coach, Diane Rawlinson. Harding and Gillooly divorced last year, reconciled in September and have been living together since.

U.S. Olympic officials met Sunday but took no action on whether to allow Harding to remain with Kerrigan on the Olympic team.

The Oregonian newspaper reported today that investigators suspect the man who attacked Kerrigan was paid \$6,500 from a trust fund set up for Harding by the U.S. Figure Skating Association.

Eckardt, 26, and Derrick Brian Smith, 29, were released on bail after their arraignment Friday on charges of conspiring to commit assault. Shane Minoaka Stant, 22, Smith's nephew, also was charged with conspiracy to commit assault and is expected to be extradited from Phoenix to Portland.

Snow storm shuts down Ohio Valley

Up to 30 inches of snow piled up on a layer of ice and brought parts of the Ohio Valley sliding to a halt Monday, with National Guardsmen mobilized and major highways shut down. Schools were closed from Missouri to Pennsylvania.

"Nobody's moving," said Willie Duley, co-owner of a service station in Morgantown, W.Va. "It's pretty bad."

A new blast of North Pole air was rushing in behind the snowstorm, and Devils Lake, N.D., had a midmorning wind chill of 92 below zero. Without factoring in the wind, Garrison, Minn., was the coldest spot in the Lower 48 states at 32 below zero, the National Weather Service said.

At least 13 deaths were blamed on snow, ice and cold during the holiday weekend.

Schools not already closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday were closed because of snow- and ice-covered roads in parts of Missouri, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, northern Georgia and Pennsylvania. Many businesses and some shopping malls also closed.

State government offices were ordered closed in 15 South Carolina counties and western Maryland because of ice-covered highways.

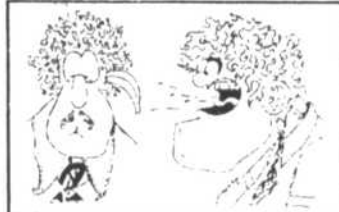
Ohio Gov. George Voinovich, West Virginia Gov. Gaston Caperton and Kentucky Gov. Breton Jones de-

clared emergencies to mobilize National Guard troops and equipment.

Louisville, Ky., Mayor Jerry Abramson also declared a state of emergency after 16 inches of snow fell by late morning, the most in the city's history.

Traffic was at a standstill throughout most of the Louisville area and even some snowplows were stuck. National Guard troops used four-wheel-drive vehicles to rescue stranded motorists.

Parts of southern Ohio, including the Cincinnati area, also were more or less shut down by up to 2 feet of snow and icy roads. Scioto County got 30 inches in places, officials said. An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 homes lost electricity in Nashville.



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