

Plan allots funds to homeless



WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials estimate that seven million Americans are homeless, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be at \$2.1 billion - or three times the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of today's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly

'Homelessness is complex and homeless people come in with a lot of needs.'

— Fred Karnas
executive director

National Coalition for the Homeless

income in rent.

The report did count up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, give them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then place them in affordable, permanent homes.

Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system is a good idea, but should not be the only option.

"We have to be real careful in suggesting that, in order to get out of homelessness, you have to go through these steps," Karnas said. "Homelessness is complex and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

The task force recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

It also suggested that non-profit groups be allowed to help homeless people get federal aid, such as food stamps or rent vouchers, sometimes by taking the process directly to the streets.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000 U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

King's attorney fights for punitive damages

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With \$3.8 million in compensatory damages assured, Rodney King listened Tuesday as his attorney asked a jury for more money and some of the people he sued claimed King is the one who should pay.

Jurors began deliberations on whether to award King punitive damages from six current and former police officers over his videotaped beating in 1991.

They retired for the day without reaching a verdict and were to resume deliberations on Wednesday.

Attorney Greg Petersen, pursuing a countersuit on behalf of one of the defendants, Officer Theodore Briseno, suggested King be ordered to share half his award with Briseno as punitive damages. Briseno claims he was battered by King moments before the black motorist was beaten by white officers.

Petersen ridiculed King's bid for punitive damages on top of the compensatory award levied against the city.

"\$3.8 million is quite a feast," Petersen said. "Now they're gnawing at the bones."

King's lawyers want between \$3.8 million and \$15 million in punitive damages from defendants Briseno,

Stacey Koon, Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind, Rolando Solano and Louis Turriaga.

King's attorney, Milton Grimes, said outside court that he is confident.

"The message we want to send is this type of malicious beating of a person will not be tolerated," he said.

The defendants have said they are penniless. Koon and Powell are serving 30-month prison sentences for violating King's civil rights.

King, who came to court sporadically during the two-month trial, arrived for his attorney's final argument and listened intently to the judge.

The jury, which has already awarded King \$3.8 million in actual damages, must decide whether the officers violated King's constitutional rights and whether the officers acted with malice or in reckless disregard of his rights.

If jurors vote in favor of those things, they must then decide if punitive damages are appropriate and how much.

Koon, Powell, Wind and Briseno were directly involved in King's arrest after a traffic stop. Solano and Turriaga helped take King into custody after the beating.

Koon and Powell, convicted of federal charges last year, were fired.

House approves Montana land bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House agreed Tuesday to set aside an additional 1.7 million acres of roadless federal land in Montana as wilderness and allow commercial development on 3 million other acres of U.S. forest land.

The Montana wilderness legislation, which has been a subject of contention in Congress for 16 years, has yet to be considered by the Senate.

It is one of a series of major land proposals before Congress, which also is considering declaring new wilderness areas in Utah and setting aside 6.6 million acres of California desert for protection.

The Montana bill, sponsored by Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., cleared the House by a 308-111 vote.

The legislation calls for nearly doubling the acres of national forest in Montana that are protected as wilderness, special management areas or for study for future wilderness designation.

The state has about 3.4 million

federal acres protected as wilderness, where commercial development is banned. But the measure would open the way for the first time for timber and mining companies to operate on about 3 million of acres of roadless land in the national forests. Commercial interests for years have been seeking the additional acreage for development.

The Montana bill remained largely unchanged from the version that was approved by the Natural Resources Committee in March.

Its major provisions call for:

- Creation of 1.67 acres of new wilderness area on federal forest land.

- Declaration of 260,000 additional acres for future study for wilderness designation, bringing the total wilderness study areas in the state to 860,000 acres.

- Creation of 440,000 acres as special management areas under the U.S. Forest Service, limiting development, particularly logging and mining.

The legislation also would prohibit mining or geothermal activities in the Badger-Two Medicine area, 116,600 acres considered sacred by the Black-foot Indians.

The House rejected proposals by Rep. John Bryant, D-Texas, to ban clearcutting on any of the 3 million acres released for development and bar the U.S. Forest Service from using taxpayer money for building logging roads.

"This is no way to manage the forests," Bryant declared, referring to forest industry practices of clearing large areas of timber.

But Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., said the restriction on road building and clearcutting would threaten the legislation and would create confusion because it would apply only to a limited amount of land.

"This is a symbolic effort. ... It's not worth killing the Montana wilderness bill," argued Vento.

Bryant's amendment was defeated 142-283.

Cash
For Textbooks
Mon.-Sat.
Smith Family
Bookstore
768 E. 13th
1 Block From Campus
345-1651

Cart de Frisco
75¢ off
Sandwich
50¢ off
Stick
Come join
Cart de Frisco
at the
Oregon Street Faire
(May 17, 18, 19)
and
Willamette Valley
Folk Festival
(May 19, 20, 21)
CART DE FRISCO located
outside the
UO Bookstore
exp. 5/31/94

Get Hooked on Flowers
at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival!



Specials this Week:

Springtime Bunches.....\$4⁹⁹

Balloons.....\$1⁵⁰

Many varieties, beautiful roses

Eugene's Flower Home

THE UNIVERSITY FLORIST

610 E. 13th at Patterson • 485-3655

Owners are U of O alumni



PEACE CORPS

At UO

May 17-18

Information Table

May 17-18, 10am-3pm, ERB

Special Presentations

"How to Qualify for the Peace Corps"

May 17, 12:30-1:30pm, EMU Cedar Rm A

"International Panel on Development"

May 17, 7-9pm, EMU Cedar Rm A

"Opportunities for Teachers"

May 18, 12:30-1:30pm, EMU Cedar Rm A

Interviews

Interviews for Fall/Winter '94 openings will be held on campus May 25-26. To schedule an appointment, call Peace Corps OSU rep. Anna Aguilar 346-6026. Note: You must bring a completed application to the interview.

