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IKE SENT THANKS

Shivers Asks Rain Prayers

By DAWSON DUNCAN
Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas, July 1.—Gov. Allan Shivers called Wednesday for a day of prayer and fasting for rain, thanked the Republican administration for its speedy drouth disaster relief program, and talked of an interstate meeting of drouth-state Governors.

The Governor called on ministers of all faiths and their congregations to participate next Sunday in a day of prayer in seeking relief from the troubles of drouth.

"A large area of Texas is in the midst of a major drouth which is adversely affecting the people, the crops, the livestock and the general welfare of the state," said the Governor in an official memorandum.

"As much relief as can be given by human means has been granted by agencies of the state and federal government.

"It is fitting that, in this time of trouble, we should turn to the One who is the source of all help."

Shivers telegraphed President Eisenhower that the people of Texas appreciated the speed with which attention was given by him, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson and Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson to Texas' request for a drouth disaster area declaration.

"The warm feeling and complete understanding demonstrated by members of your administration and the immediate mobilization of resources of the Federal Government have heartened the people of Texas," Shivers telegraphed the President.

"Helpful rain fell on some portions of the state last weekend. I am today issuing a request to ministers of all faiths and their congregations throughout Texas to participate in a day of prayer and fasting Sunday for rains to relieve the drouth disaster area of the state."

Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado suggested the interstate meeting of governors of drouth-stricken states. He made the suggestion to Shivers.

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who is chairman of the National Governor's Conference.

Thornton said he had just returned from a tour of Southeastern Colorado "which is devastated by one of the worst drouths in the history of our state."

Because Texas and other neighboring states also are affected, Thornton suggested "there be an immediate meeting of appropriate governors in a central location, such as Amarillo, so that we might discuss methods and procedures to relieve the situation."

He also suggested that Benson or his representative also attend "in order that we can develop a uniform program to cover all the states involved."

Shivers talked with Thornton by telephone and said he would keep in touch with governors of other states affected by the drouth, including New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas.

He also sent Thornton a telegram describing the federal relief granted to Texas, praising the administration for a speedy recognition of the problem and a fine understanding of the needs.

He told Thornton that Secretary of Agriculture Benson Wednesday was instituting a four-point program supervised by county and state committees. State agencies, meanwhile, awaiting details of the programs to put into prompt action.

"The warmth of feeling on the part of the President and Secretary of Agriculture and their complete understanding of the problem have received widespread approval and appreciation in Texas," Shivers told the Colorado governor.

"They recognized the need and promised help so speedily that it has even rained over about half of Texas since the initial action was taken. I trust you and your state have equally good fortune."

Shivers said later that he stands ready to call an interstate meeting of governors if the need develops, but he is not yet ready to do so.

John C. White, State Commissioner of Agriculture, said only formal notice of the four-point program was needed to start action.

"We are ready," he said. "The county organizations are all set up."

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D.: Records as President (White House Central Files)

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