

West Proclaims Clarendon 'Dry' Because Of Snow

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While melting snow, combined with rain, continued to drench South Carolina Tuesday, Gov. John West, by executive order, declared Clarendon County "dry".

West, in an order issued early Tuesday, banned the sale of alcoholic beverages in the county because of what he called "special hazards" created by

the heavy snowfall.

The prohibition went into effect Tuesday morning and was to continue indefinitely.

West instructed "all appropriate law enforcement officers" to enforce the ban.

An aide to the governor said West has the authority to prohibit the sale of alcohol in cases where there is a question of law and order.

The aide said West had been asked to issue such an order by county officials.

Meanwhile, the Columbia Weather Bureau said temperatures were continuing to rise in South Carolina, producing more melting of the thick white blanket that has covered the state since Friday.

Highs in the 40s Tuesday and Wednesday, plus rain which was to move into the state Tuesday afternoon and continue into the night, "should get rid of the biggest share of this stuff," a weather spokesman said.

The State Civil Defense Agency said most roads were open and the thousands of stranded motorists were beginning to leave churches, National Guard armories, schools, motels and private homes to continue their journeys.

The agency said it counted 16,718 "refugees" stranded in armories, churches and schools, but said the actual number was probably double that, since the official count did not include those who stayed in motels and private homes.

A spokesman for the gover-

nor said his office, with the help of the state's congressional delegation, was following up West's request for federal help.

West wired President Nixon on Monday and asked that 31 of South Carolina's 46 counties be declared a disaster area, which would make them eligible for federal assistance.

The spokesman said consultations were underway with the Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Economic Development Administration and other federal agencies.

He said 2nd District Republican Rep. Floyd Spence's office had issued a statement saying Spence was "highly optimistic" about federal money for the state.

West wired Nixon after making a helicopter tour of several counties Monday.

The governor took to the air again Tuesday, and toured Allendale, Manning and several other areas to view the extent of the snow damage.

John Hudgens, principal of Spring Valley High School in Columbia and president of the 4-A Athletic Conference, said a meeting of conference officials scheduled for Wednesday had been postponed until Feb. 21.

He said the meeting will take place in Columbia at the South Carolina Education Association headquarters.

Civil Defense spokesmen said most major highways were open Tuesday afternoon, and all should be ready for travel by Wednesday.