

Ike Asked To Declare Coast A Disaster Area

RALEIGH (AP)—State officials waited word from Washington today on whether President Eisenhower would declare coastal North Carolina a major disaster area in the wake of Hurricane Helene's crippling winds.

Gov. Hodges, who proclaimed a state of emergency in the stricken area, asked the President Monday for the disaster area designation so the storm-wracked counties would be eligible for federal aid in repairing damage to public property.

Hodges told the President a detailed estimate of the damages would be sent to Washington as soon as possible. He asked city and county officials in the hurricane area to make an immediate survey.

State Director of Hurricane Rehabilitation Harry E. Brown said he personally felt the destruction along the coastline would amount to between 7½ and 10 million dollars. He said the final tabulation may be available Wednesday.

The governor's telegram said, in part:

"It is now apparent that the damage, hardship and suffering are so extensive as to be beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments to alleviate, and federal assistance is required."

Meanwhile, embattled coastal residents continued cleaning-up operations and a host of governmental, welfare and business organizations went ahead with the burdensome task of damage evaluation.

Small business administration personnel were in the area today to determine what counties should be declared disaster areas under its emergency program. Such areas would be entitled to loans to help private business repair damages.

State Farm and Home Administration Director Horace J. Eisenhower said his agency has sufficient resources to meet the credit needs of farmers in the hurricane area.

The two major utility firms in the area, Carolina Power & Light