**World & Nation**

**Calif. Lawmakers on Verge Of Ending Budget Crisis**

By William L. Long

A formal request for impeachment, submitted by Brazil's press and bar association in a tumultuous ceremony Tuesday, started the legal process that could cause President Fernando Collor to resign from his office by the end of the month and eventually enter prison.

In a packed congressional hall, just across the street from the presidential palace, the president of the bar association read articles of impeachment accusing Collor of dishonestly receiving ill-

funds.

Beto Pinheiro, chairman of the lower house of Congress, accepted the request against the president later that he hoped to bring the matter to a vote by the first week of the month. If it passes by a two-thirds majority, that would become the first president of Latin America's biggest country to be impeached.

He would then be suspended for 180 days and tried from a criminal court if found guilty by the Senate, he would be ousted from the presiden-

ty.

Informal polls of the lower house members indicated that a two-thirds majority now favours impeach-

ment. Collor's support in the Senate, Mauro Mendonca, the government leader in the Senate, announced his resignation from the position Tuesday morning.

The decision of the Order of Brazilian Lawyers marked a major coup for the opposition, which has been mounting momentum in its push to oust Collor from office by a show of anti-Collor demonstrators last week outside Congress. A throng of anti-Collor demonstrators was still outside the hall of the building for the scheduled presentation of the impeachment

request. The ceremony was interrupted by scuffling and shuf-

fing as hundreds of people pressed against one another in the swell-

ing hall.

Marcello Lavenere Machado, chairman of the association, said the impeachment request was made "in the name of all citizens of Brazil."

The document says that the pres-


tain's allies and opponents in Congress supported the request for exploiting prestige and traffick-


ing in influence, controlled by Paulo Cesar Costa Farias. Farias is a businessman and author who has written a book, "Brazil's One-Man Fiscal Policy," that says the country's debt could be cut by 50 percent without layoffs or a recession.

The court decision determines the close interaction between foreign policy and presidential politics. In late July, General

Dias said it was planning to lay off 3,500 of the 30,000 workers in its plant in Fort Worth over the next two years. Texas Gov. Ann Richards, a Democrat, quickly and publicly blamed the loss of jobs on the administration's failure to act on Bush's opposition to the sale of jet fighters to Taiwan.

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The $7.3 billion in insured losses dwarfs $4.2 billion paid out by

the National Flood Insurance Program. The insurance companies' assets "are very liquid," Rosenburg said, "and they have the ability to put out initial coverage of $300 million to as much as $3,500 million in order to handle the most severe of claims."

"It is really important that we continue to work with insurance companies to ensure that homes are rebuilt and businesses are

restored," said Andrew, the insurance commissioner.

Insurance industry officials say their admittance is that they have never seen such devastation on such a scale. Companies repre-

sentatives often cannot find the property they have insured because street signs, addresses and sometimes even the property itself have vanished.

"And if by some chance they are able to look up with the insured property, and they give him a check, there's no cash to cash it. And if they get cash out there, it's no name to spend it in. And Marc H. Rosenberg of the Insurance Information Institute.

"The damage was unprecedented in the United States. The worst I've ever seen," Paul Landers, a veteran claims specialist for State Farm Insurance, a unit of Missouri Casualty Corp.

Andrew packed winds of more than 160 mph when it crashed across the southern tip of Florida before heading across the Gulf of Mexico and into Louisiana. It brought with it flood damage, ruined homes and left thousands of other homes temporarily unusable.

"It's not proof of the pudding," said Bill Davis of the Insurance Information Institute, a trade group that helped in assessing damages.

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