east have seldom been matched where Washing­
ton's total of 2.03" in 24 hours was second only to
2.13" in 1976.

Excellent forecasts and warnings were issued for
nearly all severely affected areas, and we can
only speculate as to whether the relatively large

number of weather-related deaths were due to
inadequate local warning dissemination, failure to
hear or heed warnings, or merely to the fact that
the storm was so severe and covered such a large
area.

RECORD MAKING SNOWSTORMS OF 1978

Two major snowstorms occurring within a week of
each other, paralyzed much of the northeastern
portion of the country in late January and early
February.

The first storm system developed on the 25th of
January (see article by Blackburn). At 0130 GMT,
26 January, Figure 1, cloudiness from this deepen­
ing system covered most of the states east of the
Mississippi River. Snow was reported from south­
er Missouri northeastward to Ohio at this time;
heavy rains were reported south of this area. By
1230 GMT, the thick, convective cloudiness was
located off the Mid-Atlantic Coast and across
New England and New York state. Cyclonically-
curved middle and low clouds, stretching from (A
to B) continued to produce snow over the Great
Lakes states. The strong winds accompanying this
storm reduced visibilities and drifted snow, mak­
ing travel impossible.

The second storm moved rather slowly. It began
to develop late on the 5th of February and
produced light snow through the Mid-Atlantic
states. Eastward progress of this coastal storm
was blocked, and the storm became nearly sta­

Figure 1. GOES-1 Infrared Data,
0130 GMT, 26 January 1978.

Figure 2. GOES-1 Infrared Data,
1230 GMT, 26 January 1978.
The heaviest snow was concentrated in the east-west band north of the low center. Figure 3 is a visible view of the storm at 1500 GMT, 6 February. The lumpy or textured cloud areas (A, B, C) mark the edge of heaviest precipitation. The two subsequent infrared views clearly show that Long Island and southern New England were under the influence of the precipitation-producing cloud band for quite some time. Strong winds accompanying the storm made conditions even worse causing huge drifts and significant ocean-wave damage. F. P.