Canal Street Closes Shop As Motel Tragedy Unfolds

By TOM FRAZER

Shopping activity along world-famed Canal Street became an additional victim today of the police-sniper confrontation at the Downtown Howard Johnson's.

New Orleans' wide thoroughfare, closed from Claiborne Avenue to St. Charles Avenue, was practically void of shoppers or pedestrians this morning and most of the stores in the area appeared to be closed.

Policemen manning military-style checkpoints at uptown Canal intersections checked identification of the few employes attempting to go to work in the Central Business District. One policeman said many employes were returning from the business area, apparently because their businesses were closed.

Buses which usually run along the Canal Street median strip were stopped at Claiborne Avenue, although a few automobiles coming from side streets were permitted to travel short distances along Canal.

Some of the stores, such as Porter-Stevens, 710 Canal, were delaying opening this morning until sufficient employes arrived. Others, such as Adler's Jewelers and Gus Mayer, were turning customres away with the explanation they were uncertain whether they would open today.

Canal Street pedestrians crossing side streets in the vicinity of the confrontation almost invariably gave furtive glances in the direction of Howard Johnson's.