

JAN 26 1973

\$11.5 Million
NO 5-7
Rault Suit
Filed Here

A suit for \$11,528,058 has been filed in Civil District Court by Andrew Williams Jr., husband of a woman killed in the Nov. 29, 1972 fire at the Rault Center.

Mrs. Wilma Lee Ponson Williams was an employe of the Lamplighter Beauty Salon Inc., on the 15th floor, said the petition. She died Dec. 23 from injuries resulting from a plunge out of the burning building.

Defendants named in the suit include The Rault Petroleum Corp., Joseph M. Rault Jr. Inc., the Lamplighter Club Inc., Lake Hillsdale Estates Inc., Lucien T. Vivien Jr. and Associates Inc., Cuisines Des Terrebonne, the City of New Orleans, New Orleans Public Service Inc., Joseph M. Rault Jr. as an individual, J. C. Aulin, the Lamplighter Beauty Salon Inc., Maurice E. Reilly Jr. and several insurance companies.

The suit charges the beauty salon was converted from a residential area to a commercial area without proper building permits or inspections and that appropriate fire resistant materials were not installed.

The city was charged with failing to enforce ordinances requiring reasonable fire prevention devices and escape routes and with failure to provide the fire and police departments with personnel and equipment to rescue Mrs. Williams from the fire.