

**1,200 EVACUATED**

**Officers Probe  
Blaze at Hotel**

The state fire marshal's office and city fire inspectors today were investigating a fire which gutted the 13th-floor storage area of The Roosevelt Hotel last night and did undetermined water damage to the 12th floor.

The fire broke out at 8:30 p. m. and drove 1,200 guests of the hotel into the streets. They did not return to their rooms until 3 a. m. when the "all safe" signal was given by firemen.

No estimate of the damages has been made but firemen, fire inspectors and the hotel management said arson definitely is suspected.

**TWO FIREMEN** were injured slightly during the fire and were treated for minor lacerations to their hands. They were identified as Lt. Paul Alline and Firefighter Leslie Oster.

The fire began in two separate sections of the storage area of the 14-floor hotel. At the height of the fire, the adjoining Shell Building was threatened. Firemen fought the blaze from the Shell Building as well as the hotel itself.

The fire interrupted a talk

by U.S. Rep. Carl Perkins of Kentucky to the 53rd convention of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. He was speaking when the evacuation was ordered by Mayor Victor H. Schiro.

Schiro went to the hotel shortly after the fire broke out and took official command.

**DESPITE THE** evacuation order, however, some people milled about the lobby of the hotel until 10 p.m. The Blue Room orchestra was performing and a good crowd was on hand in the Fairmont Cocktail Lounge on the ground floor.

The Louisiana State Firemen's Association was meeting at the Jung Hotel and many of the out-of-town firemen, in civilian clothes, vol-

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unteered their services in battling the blaze.

The hotel was back to normal operations today, according to Dan Mikulak, general manager of the hotel.

He said the hotel's bars and restaurants have been opened and that the Blue Room will be open tonight.

Mikulak said the full extent of damage has not been determined but the hotel staff is trying to determine how much china and glassware was stored in the razed thirteenth floor.

He said there has been water damage and that "we're still finding leaks."

Mikulak said the fire was confined totally to the thirteenth floor.

The 23 fire units which fought the fire during the general alarm fire, had been reduced to eight still standing by this morning.

**FIRE CHIEF** Fred Reiser said there was no structural damage to the hotel building. He added, however, that there was extensive damage to wooden window frames.

He pointed out that the hotel building is composed of steel, concrete and brick and "structural damage isn't going too far."

He said there was extensive water damage to the International Suite on the 12th floor and to furnishings. Large garbage cans which were being used to catch the water were overrunning and spilling onto the plush rugs of

the suite, already water soaked from the water poured into the upper area where the fire occurred.

Most guests of the hotel returned to their rooms and suites but some guests reportedly moved to other hotels.

NYTimes 23 Aug 69

**New Orleans Hotel Fire**

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 22 (AP)

—The 13th floor of the Roosevelt Hotel was burned out last night by a fire that officials said was set. Everyone was ordered out of the 14-story hotel, the city's largest, while firemen fought the blaze. The 13th floor was used only for storage, and no guests were injured. Mayor Victor Schiro said he ordered the evacuation because there had been an anonymous call earlier that the hotel would be set aflame.