

Rault Report DEC 7 1972 May Require More Time

A "very thorough public report" on the Rault Center fire promised yesterday by Mayor Moon Landrieu to be completed in about two weeks may take a little longer than expected.

Asst. Fire Superintendent William McCrossen said today that the mayor may have been optimistic in his estimated date of completion of the report, being compiled by the City Fire Prevention Bureau, the state Fire Marshal's Office and the New Orleans Fire Department.

McCrossen said he felt that the NOFD's part of the report, which deals with how the fire was fought, would be completed earlier than expected, however.

McCrossen also said that there were no new developments in the investigation into the Nov. 29 tragedy which saw four people die, three women plunging seven stories to their deaths from a fiery 15th story window to a roof eight stories below.

He said that cans found in the building which could be linked to possible arson were under laboratory investigation and cautioned that "sometime these things just turn out to be property of the building."

Investigators have been reluctant to say if they have uncovered any evidence of arson. The fact that two fires occurred in the same building the same day has caused investigators to look closely at the arson angle.

Two women who survived jumps from the building remained in critical condition today at Charity Hospital. They are Mrs. Natalie Smith, 39, 528 Aurora, and Mrs. Wilma Williams, 26, 1724 Caffin Ave.

Capt. J. W. Clark Elected President of Trade Mart

Capt. J. W. Clark was elected today as the new president of International Trade Mart, succeeding the late Lloyd J. Cobb.

Basil J. Rusovich was elected first vice president; James J. Coleman, second vice presi-

dent, and Frank S. Norman, third vice president.

Other officers are Asahel W. Cooper, secretary; C. Alvin Bertel, treasurer, and Harvey C. Koch, assistant secretary. Harvey G. Koch, Dr. Alton Ochsner Sr. and Harold W. Roberts were named to the executive committee.

Capt. Clark, who is president of Delta Steamship Lines, Inc., has been first vice-president of the Trade Mart since 1962. He was appointed in May, 1962, by then Mayor Victor H. Schiro, to serve as expeditor of the trade mart complex and to represent the city in development of the project.

He also serves as regional vice chairman of the Council of the Americas; a trustee of the Cordell Hull Foundation; a member of the board of the Information Council of the Americas, and is chairman of the Central Region Action Group of the National Maritime Council.



CAPT. J. W. CLARK