NEWS HIGHLIGHTS AT THIS HOUR

FIRE IN A 12TH FLOOR ROOM OF THE 18-STORY HOWARD JOHNSON DOWNTOWN MOTOR HOTEL IN NEW ORLEANS KILLED SIX PERSONS AND CRITICALLY INJURED A SEVENTH.

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COUNTDOWN FOR MONDAY''S APOLLO 15 LAUNCH IS PROGRESSING AFTER TECHNICANS AT CAPE KENNEDY OVERCAME A MINOR BATTERY PROBLEM DURING THE NIGHT.

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THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IS SEARCHING FOR BROILER CHICKENS POSSIBLY TAINTED BY THEINDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL PCB THAT LEAKED INTO FISH MEAL BEING PREPARED BY A WILMINGTON N.C. PROCESSOR. THE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO NAME THE COMPANY. THE MEAL WAS SOLD TO 64 POULTRY HOUSES IN 10 SOUTHERN STATES AND DELAWARE AND INDIANA.

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A MASSACHUSETTS OFFICIAL SAYS IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOESN'T ENACT EMERGENCY LEGISLATION TO PREVENT FOREIGN FLEETS FROM OVERFISHING THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC A VITAL FOOD SOURCE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE RUINED. HE TOLD NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS THAT MORE THAN 1 000 VESSELS MAKE UP THE FOREIGN FISHING FLEET.

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THE WHITE HOUSE INDICTED A VISIT BY YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO MAY BE SCHEDULED SOON. PRESIDENT NIXON INVITED TITO TO COME TO THE U.S. WHEN HE VISITED YUGOSLAVIA LAST YEAR

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URUGUAY'S LOWER HOUSE VOTED TO TRY PRESIDENT PACHECO ARECO ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION BY REINSTATING SECURITY MEASURES EQUIVALENT TO MODIFIED MARTIAL LAW. THE SENATE NOW MUST VOTE ON THE MEASURE WITHIN 60 DAYS.

-0- 2 10 PM EDT

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