

PROSECUTION LOOMS IN ELEVATOR CRASH

Injury to Man in Condemned Conveyance Spurs In- spector to Act.

HURTS MAY BE FATAL

Prosecution of the owners of the Mather Building, 916 G street northwest, will follow the falling of an elevator in the building yesterday morning in which John Caplinger, 35 years old, of 1224 Eleventh street southeast, a war veteran, was seriously injured. The elevator, which fell ten stories as Caplinger was operating it, had been condemned as defective on October 2, Col. John W. Oehmann, District building inspector, announced.

The owners had been given 30 days in which to make repairs, Col. Oehmann said and their failure to make such repairs will result in prosecution. The exact charges to be brought against the building owners, however, will be determined by the death or recovery of the accident victim.

Caplinger was alone in the elevator when a cable snapped, hurtling the cage to the basement from the ninth floor. Firemen of the rescue squad were called and were forced to cut their way through the top of the elevator to reach the injured man.

Rushed to Emergency Hospital, Caplinger was declared to be suffering from a fractured skull, fractured pelvis and severe cuts on the face and arm.

William Harkrider, 513 H street northwest, operator of the other elevator in the building, told police that Caplinger had made several trips in the shaft before the cable snapped. Harkrider said he was on the fifth floor with his cage when the second hurtled by. He descended immediately and called police and firemen.

The injured man was hurt in the same elevator about a year ago when his foot caught in the cage as the lift started. Caplinger is married and has two small sons.

Mrs. Caplinger, when informed of the accident, said bad luck has followed them for ten years. According to her story, one of the boys, Calvin, 5 years old, suffered the loss of three fingers when struck by an ax in the hands of his brother, 2 years old. This occurred two years ago when the family was living in Virginia.

Caplinger has been employed as elevator operator at the Mather Building for a year and a half.