

Gold Bug Bites; Millionaires Itch

By TERRY KIRKPATRICK

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Prophets of doom with the glitter of gold in their eyes came from 47 states and three foreign countries to talk about money.

They paid \$300 each to hear financial experts at the 1974 Monetary Conference confirm their constant fear: Depression is at hand and gold may be the last hope for their fortunes.

"You can probably walk around here and bump into more millionaires than anywhere else," said James Blanchard of New Orleans, a conference director. "Prob-

ey. That's paper money without any backing, money backed by politicians. All you have there is hot air."

Blanchard said the committee's economic argument goes this way: Paper dollars are worthless without gold to back them. And there is too little gold in the nation's coffers.

Thus, many of those who flocked to the plush Fairmont Hotel for the conference, which ended yesterday believe that owning gold is the only protection against what they feel is impending economic disaster.

Roberta Gratz Wins Award

New York Post reporter Roberta Brandes Gratz has won honorable mention in the 1974 Award of Merit competition of the Women's Press Club.

The club said Mrs. Gratz' series on landmark preservation "exposed shocking apathy on the part of the city concerning our architectural treasures."

First place in the contest went to William Sherman of the News.

The award is the second for Mrs. Gratz' landmarks series. She previously won the Front Page Award of the Newspaper Women's Club of New York.