FLICKER FROM FRENCH CANADA

Acadiana Is Mid-Morning Riser On World Trade Idea

The "... keen interest in French Canada on the part of the Acadian region of Louisiana" has won the attention of a highly placed Canadian official, a local exponent of closer ties between the two has been advised.

Consideration is being given to a trade exhibit here: if this proves impractical or unrealistic in terms of budget and objective, Lafayette may be included in Canada's overall information program.

Canadian government departments or its agencies, including the Canadian Consulate General in New Orleans, are expected to be in touch.

This is an important flicker of interest that could be fanned into a significant first step in the campaign to make Lafayette a French-Spain international trade center. If our great northern neighbor and ally should see fit to adopt Lafayette as a logical showcase for Canadian goods and commercial negotiations, the Cajun country trade mart would be well on the way to reality.

Acadiana can't tarry too long on this project, however, because the competition for world trade and cultural ties grows keener with each passing week.

As an illustration, the provincial government of Quebec has come up with grants in the amount of $6,000 toward the establishment of a permanent summer session of Louisiana State University in Quebec. One grant came from the Minister of Education and the other from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Four LSU coeds, including one from Lafayette, received merit awards for their progress in a summer's study of French. While the class of 24 was in Quebec the provincial government made the allocation.

We're happy for the Lafayette coed and for LSU and for Louisiana, but it could be that somewhere along the route "The Metropolis Of The Acadian Country" fumbled the ball on this one. The most important point to keep in mind here is that the French language does, indeed, provide a community of interest between Louisiana and Quebec.

There are committees and agencies at work in Lafayette now, and there is some talk of a trade mission to Quebec from Acadiana.

We've got something to "market" but so far Acadiana has made like the salesman who stayed in bed until mid-morning resting up for the afternoon siesta while the competition was out at the crack of dawn.

Daily Advertiser, Aug. 19, 1967, p.6, c.1-3