3. EIGHT CHALLENGES FOR ’73

Action Must Replace Study
To Lure Industry To Acadia

The recent announcement by the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry that industrial investment in Louisiana totaled $1.88 billion in 1972 was good news for much of Louisiana. Unfortunately, to Lafa- yette Parish, it simply meant that while the state continued to attract new industry, not much of it was coming here.

While Rapides Parish was claiming some $418 million in new industrial development, St. Charles Parish was claiming $468 million, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Ascension, Iberville, Ouachita, St. Bernard, St. James, and others were claiming new industrial investments in eight figures. Lafayette was again coming up with relative peanuts.

Figures released by the Commerce and Industry department show this parish with $465,900 in new investment, worth a total of 11 jobs.

And the reason is simply that we have yet to begin the concerted effort needed to lure Industry to Acadia. We can not depend upon one industry alone. Oil, for instance, is no longer in boom days but has stabilized. Our economy must be diversified if we are to delve seriously into the development of industry.

Louisiana ranks third among all southern states in attracting capital expenditures for new plants and equipment. During the last ten years alone more than $5 billion in new facilities have been built in the state. But how much of that has come to Acadia? And how can Lafayette?

The Lafayette Industrial Commission is in the process of yet another study of Lafa- yette’s industrial needs, its potential for industrial development, the location of sites for industrial parks, and the capital expenditures we will have to make to develop them.

It is the proper approach, but it should have been done years ago.

While others have gone through these procedures and are now actively seeking the industry to fill already-created industrial parks, bringing new parcells to their parishes and creating a diversified economy,”

That study will be ready in the very near future. We hope that it does not go the way of many other studies that have been made in Lafayette and become just another bound and dusty volume on somebody’s shelf.

Unless we get into action quickly and vigorously, valuable opportunities to bring the types of industries we want here will be lost.

Competition is keen for the type of industry wanted here, “clean” industry that will not damage the ecology, industry that will mean not only a construction boom, but also con- tinued employment for large numbers of workers.

And, while that study is being made and the necessary actions are being taken to im-