Enthusiastic Group Attends
Bilingual Conference Here

An enthusiastic group of participating in the international Northern American French Bilingual Conference opened its meeting this week in Lafayette with Mrs. Hazel Delahoussey, director of the St. Martin Parish Bilingual Project, presiding. The Conference was initiated by the St. Martin Parish Bilingual Project of the University of Oklahoma in Louisiana, the host university for the conference, with Louis Roth, assistant director of USL's University College, as coordinator.

Robert Paris, Greenville, N.H., coordinator of "Service de Liaison des Projets Bilinguales Francophones - Anglais," said attendance at the conference, out of the 300 invited, was limited to the six project directors and their staffs. Also invited were educators from Canada and the United States and others involved in the bilingual program, which is funded under Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Home Base

Dr. Richard Chandler, USL professor and head, department of foreign languages, welcomed the participants on behalf of USL, saying, "We think of our University as the home base of the French speaking element of Louisiana and we heartily endorse and support the bilingualism program."

Rene Calais, superintendent of St. Martin Parish Schools, and Harold Gauthie, acting superintendent, both spoke to the group emphasizing the worth of the conference as educational process and motivating factors in education.

Firm Support

H.B. Dyess, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State Department of Education foreign language supervisor and state coordinator, talked on Title VII BILP programs, introduced James Domeneaux, Lafayette, chairman of the Board of the Development in Louisiana, and noted Domeneaux's firm support of French programs in Louisiana.

Domeneaux welcomed the group in behalf of Governor John McKeithen. The CODOFIL chairman stressed the importance of the development of ethnic languages in the United States in the national interest and stressed attention on French for bilingualism as a potential asset that should be developed to its fullest extent.

Noting the great affinity between the French speaking areas of New England and Louisiana, he said that if their relations were put together there is no question that great good could be accomplished in concert in the support of French bilingualism and the development of all the ethnic languages of this country and "since we have the leadership in the French lan-

"Support Programs," dealing with staff development and parental and community involvement; considered "Bilingual Teachers" and "Parental and Community Involvement."

In the St. Martin Parish and Lafayette Parish Bilingual Projects pupils in kindergarten, first and second grades are taught in both French and English in such subject areas as mathematics, art, music, sculpture and language arts. Mrs. Delahoussey said that in the St. Martin Parish Project the students are taught 60 per cent in English and 40 per cent in French. The same percentages prevail in the Lafayette Parish bilingual project.

Participants in the Conference enjoyed a Guamo Supper Thursday night hosted by James Domen-

eaux, chairman of the Board for the Development of French in Louisiana, at Charles Fustier's camp in St. Martinville. Prior to that, the group was entertained in Breaux Bridge by the Parish Advisory Committee of the St. Martin Parish Project, La.

Leads Panel

Dr. Robert Ahmann, Denver, Colo., staff director, National Assessment of Educational Progress and evaluation consultant, St. Martin Parish Project, lead the Wednesday morning panel on "Overviews of the Evaluation of the Bilingual Programs."

Dr. Ahmann pointed out that evaluation must be goal oriented, with many variables to be taken into account. Accountability, he said, is the key word in education.

"We believe in our product," Dr. Ahmann said, "and as professionals we must be involved with self-criticism."

Panel members were directors and evaluators of the six bilingual projects in the United States. Panelists described plans for evaluation in their projects.

During the Wednesday afternoon session a discussion on "Evaluated Solutions to Evaluation Problems" was held.

The Conference ended Friday with a panel on "Directors of French in Louisiana, Closed Discussion; Suggestions, Needs, Programs, Solutions, Plans for the Future: General Reactions to the Conference."

Panel Members

Participants in this panel included Richard Goulart, Washington, D.C., program manager, Title VII Bilingual Project; Dr. Ruth Bradley, Lafayette, director, Lafayette Parish Project; Patricia J., Mrs. Hazel Delahoussey, St. Martinville, director, St. Martin Parish Project; Joyce de Lavicterre, director, Derby Project, Maine; Omer Picard, director, St. John Valley Project, Maine; and Normand Hathaway, director, Masconomet Project, N.H.

Panel leader was Robert Paris, Greenville, N.H., coordinator, Service de Liaison des Projets Bilinguales Francophones - Anglais.

During the Conference participants described methods used in evaluating their programs; discussed "Instruction" including curriculum, methodology and materials printed locally developed dwelt on