BILINGUALISM IS EMPHASIZED

TESOL Holds National Convention Here

By Peyune

At the national convention of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages), being held at the Jung Hotel through Sunday, bilingualism is being given strong emphasis.

Attending the convention which opened Thursday with an address by State Superintendent of Education William J. Dodd, are educators who teach English to all students whose first language is other than English.

Saturday afternoon, Louisiana's French bilingual programs were the topic, with reports on, and discussion of the state's two such programs in St. Martin and Lafayette parishes.

Homer Dyess, supervisor of foreign languages with the state Department of Education, said that on his recent visit to Mexico with a large Louisiana delegation, Secretary of State Wade O. Martin, Jr. had stressed the fact that although Louisiana is probably predominantly French-speaking (next to English), there is also a large Spanish-speaking population, particularly in New Orleans, which, as a port of entry, receives in excess of 200 Spanish-speaking families every month.

He added that increasing interest has been manifested in bilingual projects for these Spanish-speaking people, and that there has already been proposed to federal authorities in Washington establishment in this state of a Spanish bilingual program.

Dyess said that a principal reason for New Orleans being chosen as site of the current TESOL convention, was to allow those attending from other areas to see first-hand what is being done for both French and Spanish-speaking children and adults in the United States.

Hanes Morris, foreign language supervisor for Orleans Parish schools, is the local convention chairman.

Two Southern University professors also are attending the convention. They are Dr. Samuel C. Lin and Dr. Paul Lin who will also make the arrangements for a reunion dinner for Teachers College, Columbia University Alumni.