Bilingualism in La. Career

CODOFIL Advisory Unit
Urges Facility in France

Group Holds Session in Lafayette

LAFAYETTE, La.—Strong support has been voiced favoring bilingualism in Louisiana's career education program and establishing an off-campus facility in France for a single semester or a full year course of study during a statewide meeting in Lafayette.

Resolutions on the two proposals came during the third session of the Academic advisory Board to the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

The board, which was named by executive order, is made up of the heads of the foreign language departments of all Louisiana's universities and colleges. Membership also includes the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association and the State Board of Education.

There were 22 in attendance at the Lafayette gathering including the executive committee of the board, Dr. James Redfern of Louisiana State University, Dr. Francis L. Lawrence of Tulane, Dr. Elmore DeGrange of Southern, Dr. Carlos Fandal of Northeast State University and Homer Dyess, head of the foreign language department of the Louisiana Department of Education, and Chairman of the executive committee.

Redfern, Lawrence, DeGrange and Fandal head the foreign language departments of their respective universities. The board was enlarged during the Lafayette gathering to include Dr. Richard Chandler, head, foreign language department, University of Southwestern Louisiana; Dr. Shirley Brown, LSU-Shreveport and Dr. Judith Cooper, Loyola University, as executive committee members-at-large.

The advisory board resolution on career education noted that Louisiana, because of her French background, could supply a large and diversified bilingual workforce in all areas of commerce, such as international banking, agriculture, petroleum, medicine, computational skills and engineering and in all other fields of commerce and education.

Under the proposal for the off-campus facility in France all Louisiana higher education institutions would combine themselves with the approval of the State Board of Education in sponsoring such foreign off-campus facilities. Students would be provided an opportunity to earn credit during a one year course of study at low cost.

Appreciation on behalf of Louisiana was expressed to the French government by the advisory board for the young elementary teachers from France instructing in the state's elementary schools in lieu of military service and to the supervisory staff from France. Thanks was also extended France for assistance in the mass media and cultural fields. Value of the three programs from the French Government to Louisiana in 1972 was $420,000.

The Canadian government won the praise of the CODOFIL advisory board for assistance in various fields, including a $15,000 contribution to the Louisiana programs. The Quebec government was extended Louisiana's gratitude for locating a Quebec Bureau in Louisiana and for financial aid in connection with the Jesuit College program in Quebec each summer.