The suggestions contained in your editorial of September 20th, 1973 are not new. Following World War II those in charge of Education in Louisiana decided that Spanish should be the second language taught in our education system. Consequently most of our colleges and universities appointed Spanish majors as Deans of the Foreign Languages Departments and high schools throughout the State hired Spanish majors as teachers.

Although huge amounts of time, effort and money were employed to implement this policy, it was of little benefit since very few people are bilingual in English and Spanish in Louisiana today, outside New Orleans where there now exist a pool of recently arrived refugees from Cuba and a few other Latin American countries.

The reason Spanish did not catch on is that it hasn't been spoken natively in Louisiana for 150 years. On the other hand, French is still spoken or understood natively by more than a million people in Louisiana.

CODOFIL simply wants to help the State of Louisiana to help itself by utilizing an existing natural resource as a foundation for a bilingual society for the good of all its citizens, culturally, educationally and economically. To us, this attitude seems healthier than the opinion of your editorial which in fact advocates putting to death systematically the language of one-third of Louisianans.

In our view, abolishing CODOFIL wouldn't help Spanish. On the contrary, we feel CODOFIL's work is doing more than anything else to awaken interest in the idea of second languages in Louisiana and in the nation at a time when the development of second languages has become vital to the interest of this country.