BATON ROUGE - Practical bilingualism has become an important asset in the survival of the United States as a strong power in the world today, State Superintendent of Education Louis Michot said at a State Board of Education meeting today as winners of the Louisiana High School Rafty Association were presented CODOFIL scholarships for summer study in Quebec by members of the State Board of Education.

The winners are: State Rafty—French Four, Andrea Rusher, Baton Rouge, St. Joseph's Academy; French Three, Charles Pace, Alexandria Senior High; French Two, Karla Biehler, New Iberia, Mt. Carmel; French One, Gretchen Babenleiner, New Orleans, Mercy Academy; District Rafty—Rinco Talbot, Lake Charles, Barbe High School; Greek High, Karla Biehler, Alexandria Senior High; Hebrew High, Arlene Frances Cheramie, Houma, Vandervilt Catholic; Latin High, Kelsey Rusher, Pineville High; Latin Junior, Shirley Ann LeDuff, Baton Rouge, St. Joseph's Academy; Carol Schwartz, New Orleans, Mt. Carmel, Independent Association—French Jackson, Clinton, St. Iliman Institute.

"Left Out" Those countries and states who do not take the necessary steps to develop second languages are just simply going to be left out as competition among nations becomes more and more fierce for raw materials, influence and money. When it say necessary steps, I mean those means that may seem radical and drastic but really are not, for it is the survival as a world power of the United States and the unhindered progress of Louisiana in this nation that I am talking about," Michot said.

Michot continued to say that on his recent visit to Europe he attended several meetings in which several languages were spoken in turn and

(CODOFIL Awards Presented Students)

Sometimes in the same breath French Used

"At one particular meeting in Brussels, that of the Agency for Cooperation Culturelle et Technique, grouping 26 countries, French was used exclusively," he said. "After that meeting, I rode from Brussels to Paris with the Ambassador from Guinea who spoke to me in French only."

CODOFIL Chairman, James Demengeaux, said that Louisiana is the representative of the United States as a whole, although unofficiously, at many international meetings because it is showing promise of embarking on a serious project of developing bilingualism.

As Observer "Louisiana is included in these meetings as an observer," Demengeaux said. "While there, the Louisiana representatives become the U.S. observers because, in many instances, they are the only Americans present with a command of more than one language. The United States Government has to take off its blinkers and see how this world is changing and changing fast. It has to recognize that a unilingual nation is already like a building sitting on a log uttering the same burp over and over."

Demengeaux said he agrees with U.S. Representative F. Edward Hebert who said in the March 5 Congressional Report: "Every American child should have the opportunity to learn intimately a second language from kindergarten through university since language is the natural basis of arithmetic or other priority school subjects. This is as basic to the progress of this nation as guns, economics, and the arts." 

Most Progressive The Chairman of CODOFIL, who stands for the Development of French in Louisiana, a state agency, said the Louisiana government and Legislature understand and this and that in this light, the state is among the most progressive in the U.S. "In New York," he said, "most of the local school boards don't understand this fundamental and urgent need for themselves, their State and their Nation, and especially, for their children, the children of their State and the Nation. For they refuse the place second language learning as a primary subject because it seems to them to be a waste of time."

Bilingual member of the State Board of Education, Anthony "Sookie" Roy, back from a recent visit to Quebec with Louisiana Governor Edwards, said: "It is amazing now knowing that a country's language can open doors that would otherwise remain closed."

The CODOFIL scholarship recipients will study at one of two regions of scenic Quebec where the populations are French-speaking in their communities, 130 miles north of Quebec City at the Lake St. John, and of Riviere-du-Loup, 130 miles northeast of Quebec City on the southern bank of the St. Lawrence River. The program is open to all Louisiana students, teachers and others. (Continued On Page 3, Col. 3)