CODOFIL Board, Officers Named

Officers and members of an executive committee were recently named to the CODOFIL Board for the Development of French as Second Language in Louisiana at the first general assembly of the newly-appointed 50-member statewide council.

Members of the council, whose names were recommended by the state legislature to Governor Treen during the 1980-81 legislative session, were recently appointed by the governor. The meeting of June 20 in Baton Rouge was their first general working session, and it was at this meeting that the members of the executive committee were named.

Under the leadership of James Domengeaux, founding chairman of CODOFIL, members will direct activities intended to increase participation by the public in CODOFIL’s French programs. Other committee officers named are J.B.C. Graugnard, vice-chairman; Dr. Patrick Robinson, secretary; and Ms. Helen Lancaster, treasurer. Committee members include Gary Manina, Dr. Charles Fodi, Dr. Elmo Authement, Joseph Patrick, Dr. Carlos Fandal, Chancellor Cecil Taylor, Truman Stacey, and A.J. “Sookie” Roy. The 18-member executive committee consists of one representative from each congressional district and six at-large members: Dr. Homer Dupuy, David Marcantel, Paul C. Tate, John Olivier, Homer Dyess, and Dr. William Arceneaux.

In addition to naming the executive committee, council members discussed the present status of the French program in Louisiana. Encompassing more than 30 parishes on the elementary level, this program now employs some 116 Louisiana teachers trained in French as Second Language Specialists and more than 150 Belgian, French and Quebec teachers. Methods of strengthening the program were brought up for discussion by the council members.

Act 714, which deals with the establishment of the French program in Louisiana, was also a subject of discussion. Passed by the Louisiana legislature in 1975, this act requires a school system to establish a K-12 program of second language instruction when at least 25 percent of the heads of households of students attending the school request such a program by petition. Tested in the courts in 1977 in Jefferson Davis Parish, the act was upheld and now serves as a means of expanding existing French programs in the state.

The 50-member council will hold its second meeting in Lake Charles during the week of October 12, that week marking the 200th anniversary of the defeat of the British army to a combined French and American force at Yorktown.

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev attended a meeting of the United Nations' General Assembly, and the session dissolved in disorder Oct. 12, 1960. When the United States' ambassador spoke on Eastern Europe and the Philippines' ambassador endorsed his remarks, the Russian leader took off his shoe to pound the table while he heckled. The meeting was adjourned when order could not be restored.