NEW IBERIA — An Iberia Parish chapter of the Council for the Development of French of Louisiana (CODOFIL) was initiated here last night at a special organizational meeting.

James Domengeaux, Lafayette lawyer, who has been spearheading the CODOFIL movement explained the three main objectives of the organization: education, mass media publicity, which would include programs in French, and exchange of Louisiana students between Canada and France.

Language Center

He explained that Louisiana can become the center of French language and culture. He said the success of the program depended upon the educators in particular, the various school boards throughout the state.

Domengeaux stated “Without the backing and interest of these educators, the battle is lost.”

He told an audience of about 100 persons that Louisiana had a rich heritage and should develop its French language and culture which as a natural resource can become a tourist attraction.

Bilingual State

“To speak one language is good, but to speak two languages is better,” he said. “Louisiana can easily become a bilingual state.”

In the past, Domengeaux said speaking French was considered a stigma and the language was discouraged by both parents and educators.

Committee Appointed

A nominating committee was appointed by the chairman J. Patout Burns, president of the Iberia Parish School Board. The members of the committee are: Minus Gisclaire, Sam Broussard, Kenward Viator and Miss Maurine Bergerie, all of New Iberia and Dr. Kendall Brown of Jeanerette.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Monday, October 12, at which time the nominating committee will make a report.

Also at the meeting were Leo LeBlanc, representative from Quebec, Canada in Louisiana and Bernard Dore of Paris, France, who represented the French Technical Interstate Transportation Association, both of whom spoke briefly. The charter was read in French and adopted at the meeting.