Canada Envoy Spreads Good Will in Acadiana

Cantin Cuts Road Bond, Presents Check

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LAFAYETTE, La. — Canada's new consul-general stationed in New Orleans spread international goodwill in two languages during visits to Vermilion, Lafayette and Iberia parishes Wednesday and Thursday and received a standing ovation from the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry board following remarks on American-Canadian friendship.

Consul-General Jean Charles Cantin's tour started in Abbeville Wednesday morning when he cut a ribbon in front of city hall calling attention to the Hug-the-Coast Highway that would run through Vermilion Parish linking Canada with Mexico.

CHECK GIVEN

He then handed a $15,000 check from the Canadian government to James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), to further the CODOFIL program to preserve and expand Louisiana's French language. Domengeaux said the gesture by the Canadian government highlights the state's French renaissance program which started four years ago.

Welcoming the consul-general, his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Dolin of Canada to Abbeville were Mayor Jimmie Vorhies; State Sen. James Fontenot, Vermilion Clerk of Court Tony Hebert; Vermilion Sheriff Euda Delamatre; city councilman Red Gooch and Vic Shriver, a member of the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal District.

Cantin found bilingual city and parish workers in Abbeville city hall and in the parish courthouse; French-speaking restaurant managers, waitresses and oil field workers in Intracoastal City; and more bilingual people in public buildings, banks and business places in Kaplan.

N. R. Broussard, Intracoastal City businessman, briefed Cantin on the French language movement in Vermilion and explained Intracoastal City is the service center for the offshore oil business between Morgan City and Cameron Parish.

Oil companies, shipyards, a menhaden plant and two helicopter companies are located at Intracoastal City, Broussard told Cantin, who is expanding its own offshore oil activity. He noted, too, that the first had been recorded for Intracoastal City with the loading of fish meal on 75-ton capacity LASI vessels.

BASTILLE DAY

Cantin and his party were made honorary citizens of Kaplan. The French language certificates were handed to the visitors by Bennett Broussard, the bilingual mayor of Kaplan.

Broussard told Cantin Kaplan is the only city in the United States which observes Bastille Day.

After the welcome at city hall, Cantin visited the Vermilion Bank and Trust Company, where he was greeted in French by bank officials and employees.

When Domengeaux showed the bankers the $15,000 check CODOFIL received from Canada, cashier Louis Roy suggested that the money be deposited there. Domengeaux replied, "Why not?" and filled out the deposit slip. He said he wants people everywhere to realize that the French movement is statewide and not restricted to any one community.

Cantin capped his day in Vermilion as guest of honor at a reception in Abbeville.

The consul-general was introduced Thursday in Lafayette to the new board of the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry. The introduction was made by George Diedrich Jr. of Thibodaux, a board member and new president of the International Relations Association of Acadiana.

Lafayette Mayor Kenny Bowlin welcomed Cantin at city hall earlier Thursday.

His Thursday schedule took him to New Iberia for a welcome by Mayor Allen Daigre and Ville Platte Friday.