CONVENTION PASSES FRENCH LANGUAGE PROVISION

The Council For The Development of French In Louisiana and all the French-speaking people of Acadiana got a political shot-in-the-arm last week when the Constitutional Convention overwhelmingly adopted a provision to preserve the linguistic and cultural origins of the people of the state.

The measure had been introduced before through the efforts of Lafayette delegates Patrick Juneau and Heloise Corne, and New Iberia delegate Perry Segura, but had failed. Last week it passed by a vote of 95 to 1.

CODOFIL Chairman James Domengeaux hailed the vote as "indicative of the attitude of the convention in acknowledging the great challenging value of the French language in Louisiana."

Domengeaux said the Constitution is passed with the provision uncut, "it will strengthen our appearance before the legislature to implement this basic principle." He added that CODOFIL will seek legislation in May to make the school boards of the predominantly French-speaking parishes responsible to provide for student exposure to French instruction from the first grade upwards.

We editorially supported the provision last week when Mrs. Corne announced she was going to re-present it at the convention. Since it has been adopted, we can now reaffirm that support.

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