Groups and individuals interested in promoting consumption of crawfish recently formed the Louisiana Crawfish Industry Association. The organization, which will maintain headquarters at Breaux Bridge, is aiming at a $40 million business a year for the state.

At the organization meeting State Sen. Garland Bonin, Lafayette, announced that he, Sen. Sam Broussard, New Iberia, and Rep. Burt Angelle, St. Martin, plan to sponsor a bill which would replace the pelican with a crawfish as the state emblem.

As Louisianians and other gourmets know, crawfish bisque and crawfish etouffee rank among the finest delicacies of the continent. But unfortunately most Americans have yet to discover these succulent dishes.

All phases of the business are represented in the association. Founding members include fishermen, producers, buyers, and processors, along with persons who, though they are not in the industry, realize that it can be made of greater economic importance to Louisiana. A heavy demand for crawfish certainly would stimulate farm enterprises. Already commercial production is being scientifically studied.

The state symbol should not be changed. The pelican with her young is one of the most meaningful symbols of any state. It was taken from Christian art and it perfectly expresses the idea of the state's protection of her people and resources. Sen. Bonin and his colleagues should be advised to crawfish out of submitting a bill to replace the pelican.

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