Domengeaux Discusses French Movement in La

Crowd of 400 Addressed by CODOFIL Chairman

Preserving Language Is Aim of Quebec Trip

NEW IBERIA, La.—As many as 10,000 Louisiana students may visit all the French-speaking countries in the world by 1980 if the momentum of Louisiana's French movement continues at its current rate.

This statement was made Saturday by James Domengeaux, chairman of The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), the state agency created for the preservation and extension of French in Louisiana.

Domengeaux addressed a crowd of more than 400 at Acadiana Regional Airport in New Iberia. The occasion for the gathering was departure ceremonies for 95 students and teachers of French from throughout the state who were preparing to leave Sunday for a five-week educational trip to Quebec, Canada. Twenty-five others left from New Orleans Sunday.

Part of the group of 120 will participate in a study program at Jonquiere College and the remainder will enroll in summer camps in Quebec Province, where they will be taught French in an informal camp setting.

The trip to Quebec is part of the statewide movement to preserve, improve and expand the French language in Louisiana.

"Exposure by these students and teachers to a complete French environment will intensify the interest in the program to rejuvenate the French language in Louisiana and to some extent compensate for the erosion of the French language as formerly used in our homes," Domengeaux said.

SPRING URGED

Urging the students and teachers to speak French while in Quebec, Domengeaux said, "The purpose of the trip is to improve your French by speaking it.

Before leaving the travelers "bon voyage," Domengeaux assured them, "You are going to visit some of the finest country God has made.

Louisiana's French renaissance has the "unanimous approval" of north and south Louisiana, he said. North Louisiana legislators do not see the movement as provincial, but as beneficial to the whole state and to its economy, he noted.

Domengeaux praised the Louisiana congressional delegation and especially Third District Congressman Pat Caffery of New Iberia for securing federal aid for the French movement in Louisiana.

Caffery was instrumental in securing a projected $600,000 in federal funds for French programs that will be implemented in the next five years in conjunction with the state's French renaissance.

Following the meeting, Caffery said he helped secure a pledge of $210,000 from the federal government for 1970-71 to aid in the preservation, improvement and extension of the language.