INFORMAL CHAT — James Domengeaux, right, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, chats with delegates to the International French Congress being held in Lafayette. Listening are Jean-Jacques Peyronnet, left, Consul General of France at New Orleans, and Philippe Rossillon, Reporteur General of the High Committee for the Defense and Expansion of the French Language. (Advertiser Staff Photo)
Edward To Speak
To French Congress

Louisiana Gov. elect Edwin W. Edwards will be the guest speaker this evening for the closing banquet of the International Congress of the French Speaking Americans which has been in session for three days in Lafayette.

About 3,000 local residents and registered delegates from some 20 French-speaking areas of North America, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean are attending the Congress which is being held at the University of Southwestern Louisiana campus at Angelle Hall Theater.

In French

Edwards will address the banquet in French. The fete is to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium, and tickets for the banquet are available at the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

Cultural, Economic Trade

Cultural, Economic Trade Is Urged by Delegation

The French delegation from Martinique, Guadeloupe and Guayana attending the International Congress of the French Speaking Americans has expressed a desire for cultural and economic exchanges to be made between their provinces and Louisiana's Acadians.

Three of the delegations, lead by Philippe Maland, a member of the French prime minister for the three Caribbean provinces, talked to the Advertiser yesterday afternoon in an interview.

Working Arrangement

Raymond Cipolin of Guayana, M. Louis of Guadeloupe and Monsieur Lucien of Martinique asked that CODIFOL and Louisiana work through the United States Department and with the CODIFOL office in Lafayette.

CODIFOL is the sponsoring organization for the Congress, the first ever held in Louisiana. Jean-Louis Gagnon, director of Information Canada, said Tuesday Louisiana could aid the movement to strengthen French as a second world language.

Second Language

Gagnon said while French is not under any threat of extinction as a second international language, if its position in the international community is to be strengthened it must become the second language of the English-speaking world.

Louisiana's role would be in the current efforts in the state to resurrect the French language and culture. Jacques Habert, French National Assembly representative to the United States, said that "America needs citizens who can speak French" and he urged the continuation of the French renaissance in the state.

Cultural, Economic Trade

"Your Congress is an important element in the development of the cultural and linguistic relationship between the French and English cultures that complement each other," Maland said. "Furthermore, there is a need for more understanding and respect for a greater part of the world to place on United States territory, a state where the French language is more than a hundred years old as early as the 17th Century." Maland said Louisiana could aid the movement.

"Let us view this particularly the cultural and linguistic relationship of the French in the United States that the activities undertaken in Louisiana to save your French heritage find their place," Maland said.

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