Ethnic Language Rebirth Seen

A nationwide bi-lingual program “to rejuvenate the ethnic languages of this country” could become an “atomic weapon for peace,” James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for Development of French in Louisiana told the state meeting of foreign language teachers’ association yesterday at USL.

Dr. Carlos Fandal, head of the Northeast State College foreign language department at Monroe, organized the meeting. Dr. Ernest Hayden of the University of Texas at Austin was also a speaker.

Domengeaux said the foreign language teachers would “make or break” the program in the state. The French language and other ethnic languages of the United States were “smothered by the melting pot attitude” after the Civil War,” he continued.

The greatest advantage “in our shrinking world” Domengeaux stressed,” is the ability to communicate with the other nations of the world and certainly language will give this advantage.”

Louisiana is leading the Renaissance to a bi-lingual country but Domengeaux said it would take a mass program to preserve the “great language asset.” Help from the legislature, public officials of local