Exile's Rally

IN LOUISIANA A QUEBEC OFFICIAL ATTEMPTS TO RALLY THE EXILES. That's the caption of a streamer in a recent edition of the Toronto (Canada) Star. It introduces Leo LeBlanc of New Brunswick, official representative of the Quebec government in Lafayette. “His message is becoming a household word among the bayous of Louisiana,” commences the story by staffer Jerry Hall. The message: “Quebec is Canada’s window to the French-speaking world which is now 33 countries strong. Louisiana could be the same thing for the United States.

The feature goes on to relate that “Lafayette is the center of Louisiana’s Cajun or Acadian country . . . Some 850,000 people living here today can trace their ancestry back to Canada. So in some ways Cajun country is a southern-fried Quebec.” It tells of LeBlanc’s liaison with the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, and relates his activities in arranging for exchange students between the two countries and for visits of Canadian government officials to Louisiana’s offshore oil sites. It quotes James Dornengeaux, head of CODOF-IL, as recalling when children in Acadian districts were punished for speaking French.