French Diplomat Is Honored Here

By BUCKY ALLEN in Louisiana
Advertiser Staff Reporter

The French government's chief diplomatic liaison with Southern states for the past two years and 10 months, Consul General Jean LeCannellier, was honored during a banquet last night at Jacob's restaurant for his outstanding assistance and support of the French language renaissance in Louisiana.

LeCannellier has been stationed in New Orleans since 1968. He will leave his post in the Crescent City on Tuesday to assume another post which has not been announced.

James Domengeaux of Lafayette, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, said that "Mr. Jean LeCannellier is one of Louisiana's best friends in its fight to preserve its French language and customs. It is he who acquainted his government with Louisiana's potential in this French renaissance."

Michot, Bishop Maurice Schexnayder and Quebec, Canada, government representative Leo LeBlanc were among those to laude LeCannellier for his efforts in assisting the French language movement in Louisiana.

"We would never have gotten (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

(Advertiser Staff Photo)

FRENCH CONSUL HONORED — The French government's Consul General Jean LeCannellier, left, was guest of honor at an evening banquet last night at Jacob's restaurant. Lafayette's Bishop Maurice Schexnayder and James Domengeaux of Lafayette, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana were present for the farewell. LeCannellier served in his post in New Orleans for two years and 10 months. He will be re-assigned to a new post Tuesday. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

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The consul general of France was at the outset a prime mover in relations between his country and CODOFIL, which culminated in the establishment of solid programs to further the cause which all Louisianians have at heart — that of a practical second language throughout the state. He also loved Louisiana so well that, I am told, it was he who asked to be sent to this state.

Cosponsoring last night’s dinner were CODOFIL, the Acadian Charter Chapter of American Businesswomen, the Attakapas Historical Society, the Richelieu Club, France - Amerique de la Louisiane Acadienne, France - Amerique de Lac Charles, the Institute of French Studies at USL and the International Relations Association of Acadiana.

French Teachers

LeCannellier is responsible for presenting the French renaissance picture to the French government and assisting in obtaining French nationals in coming to Louisiana to teach in schools in several Acadiana parishes and in some parts of north Louisiana.

Domengeaux said prior to the banquet that LeCannellier has given "whole-hearted cooperation to every reasonable request that CODOFIL has made in this effort to preserve the language."

"He is our friend," he said, "and will always cherish his stay in Louisiana."

To Be Replaced

According to the French consul general’s office in New Orleans, LeCannellier will be replaced by Jean-Jacques Peyronnet, currently counselor of the French Embassy in Columbia. He will take up the New Orleans post in early July.

In recounting LeCannellier’s activities in Louisiana Domengeaux said "we couldn’t have done it without his able assistance."

LeBlanc said of the French consul general: "The consul general of France was at the outset a prime mover in relations between his country and CODOFIL, which culminated in the establishment of solid programs to further the cause which all Louisianians have at heart — that of a practical second language throughout the state. He also loved Louisiana so well that, I am told, it was he who asked to be sent to this state."

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