McKeithen Plans To Push Proposals

Acadiana's legislative representatives have introduced a series of proposals to preserve the Louisiana French Heritage.

The Lafayette Parish delegation yesterday proposed measures seeking appropriations for French teacher training, to establish a French-language television station, to begin a bureau of translations in the Secretary of State's office, and for French studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Additionally, Rep. A.O. Rappelet of Galliano is seeking $30,000 to establish an Acadian studies program at Nicholls State College in Thibodaux.

Earlier in this legislative session the Lafayette Parish delegation introduced measures to appropriate $100,000 for a reciprocal student exchange with Canada, an additional $100,000 to establish a Council for the Development of Louisiana French, and proposed a measure to require public elementary schools to offer at least five years of French instruction and to make three years of high school French a mandatory curriculum item.

The measures apparently will have some support from Governor John McKeithen, who told representatives of Radio-Diffusion Francais, the national television network of France, that he is "100 percent in favor of steps to preserve our heritage and to exchange information with other countries.

The bills are expected to be introduced in the next legislative session.

License Fees

Monday is the final day for lawmakers to introduce bills in this session—and a flood of legislation is expected.

Among them will be the governor's final tax measure, a $2 increase in the two-year charge of $2.50 for driver's licenses. It will be used to finance the state's highway safety program.

Also expected are bills to authorize floating of the bond issue for the new women's prison at St. Gabriel.

Labor Opposition

The income tax measures, along with an automobile weight tax, could be in for opposition from labor. State AFL-CIO president Victor Bussie said his organization would decide on a stand this weekend.

Louisiana's higher education institutions would come in for the bulk of the new projects under the $88 million building program. Many of the projects involve construction of athletic facilities.

The Port of New Orleans, which would get $15 million to upgrade its facilities.

The state's penal institutions would come in for $7.8 million in construction, mainly for repairs to existing prisons and for a new women's prison at St. Gabriel.