French Heritage Preserved Here

The proposed, revised state Constitution contains a provision to preserve the linguistic and cultural origins of the people of Louisiana. The provision will further the aims and ambitions of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

The provision, which was approved by a vote of 95 to one at the Constitutional Convention in Baton Rouge earlier this year, states that the right of the people to preserve, foster and promote their respective historic and cultural origins is recognized.

CODOFIL Chairman James Domengeaux of Lafayette said that if the Constitution is approved by the voters next month, the provision “will strengthen our appearance before the legislature to implement this basic principle. We will seek legislation in May that will provide in the predominantly French-speaking parishes responsibility on the part of the school boards to offer, within their own budgets, exposure to French instruction from the first grade upwards.”

Value Of Language

Domengeaux said of the near unanimous vote that put the provision into the proposed document: “The vote was indicative of the attitude of the Convention in acknowledging the great challenging value of the French language in Louisiana.”

Domengeaux, with a lot of help from the French government and a sizable local staff, has been working for years to promote the French heritage and language in South Louisiana.

The former U.S. Congressman noted a year ago that the continuing French movement in Louisiana will do more for tourism in this state by accident than the state Tourist Commission will do on purpose.

CODOFIL has always done an outstanding job of attracting French people — many of them high-ranking government officials — to Acadiana.

French Journalists

Just yesterday 150 journalists