The French language is the greatest educational opportunity that has come to Louisiana in the last 50 years, General Chairman, James Domengeaux told the first regular meeting of the Lafayette Parish Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) Wednesday night.

“But the educational authorities are blind to it,” he said, adding that it is up to the (Continued On Page 2, Col. 6)
people to motivate the educational authorities to consider serious implementation of French in the elementary grades.”

‘Will Listen’

“They won’t listen to Domengeaux, but they will listen to a thousand parents demanding French in the schools” he said.

The CODOFIL Chairman said every type of reason is found by the educational authorities to maintain the status quo. One of these excuses is that the curriculum is full.

Basic Subjects

There are the basic subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic with sometime different names, he said, and there are the enrichment subjects which range from the arts to personal hygiene. “Why not teach the child to play the piano and brush his teeth in the French language” he asked.

Another reason for refusing French in the schools is a lack of money. Domengeaux said the French Government provides qualified young men and women who teach at $325 per month Lafayette Chapter President Allen Babineaux painted a picture of what Louisiana would be like were the French language seriously taught in the state from kindergarten up through the universities. “It would be the center of French instruction in the U.S., a pool of diplomats and foreign representatives, a tourist haven for more than 30 French speaking countries on the move, an example of cultural attainment for the rest of the Union, a foothold for the U.S. in the developing nations of the world the majority of which are French speaking African countries,” Mr. Babineaux said.

Orleans Chapter, vice president, James Bezou described the workings of the Agence de Cooperation du Culturelle et Technique, the world organization of French countries which is giving moral and financial support to CODOFIL for the Congres International des Ameriques Francophones to be held in Lafayette, April 3-5 this year.