BATON ROUGE — Gov. Edwin Edwards and another top state official have pledged to obtain $500,000 to begin a pilot program for teaching French in Acadiana first grade classes. The announcement was made today following a meeting in the state capitol with Edwards and Louis Michot, superintendent of education.

The program would embrace about 10 of the predominantly French-speaking parishes of Louisiana, according to James Domengeaux, president of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana. Domengeaux said the decision of Edwards and Michot was influenced by the probability of the French government matching this amount in the employment of teachers from France.

Pending the obtaining of funds, the program would begin in September.

The program would embrace about 10 of the predominantly French-speaking parishes of Louisiana, according to James Domengeaux, president of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana. Domengeaux said the decision of Edwards and Michot was influenced by the probability of the French government matching this amount in the employment of teachers from France.

These teachers would be used only until the time when Louisiana can train its own certified teachers in French, of which there is a great shortage, Domengeaux said.

Present at the meeting with Edwards, Michot and Domengeaux were Winston Riddick, Michot's executive assistant; George Dupuis, president of the Lafayette Parish School Board; and Harold Gauthe, Lafayette Parish superintendent of schools.

Pilot Program

Dupuis and Gauthe were credited by the CODOFIL head in helping bring about the pilot program decision. Edwards and Michot were cited as having shown "great sympathy in this modest start in basic French education."

In view of this latest move in maintaining and expanding the French language, Senate Bill 635 will not be pursued, Domengeaux said.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Edgar G. Mouton Jr., Lafayette, called for the teaching of French in the early grades only after it was approved by referendum in each locale. Mouton has been "one of the champions of the French movement throughout the legislature," Domengeaux said.

French Program

(Continued From Page 1)

Parish School Board; and Harold Gauthe, Lafayette Parish superintendent of schools.

Pilot Program

Dupuis and Gauthe were credited by the CODOFIL head in helping bring about the pilot program decision. Edwards and Michot were cited as having shown "great sympathy in this modest start in basic French education."

In view of this latest move in maintaining and expanding the French language, Senate Bill 635 will not be pursued, Domengeaux said.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Edgar G. Mouton Jr., Lafayette, called for the teaching of French in the early grades only after it was approved by referendum in each locale. Mouton has been "one of the champions of the French movement throughout the legislature," Domengeaux said.