French Renaissance Gets Another Boost

By MARTHA AYCOCK
Advertiser Staff Reporter

The French Renaissance in Lafayette got another boost last night with the formation of the Lafayette Parish Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

About 200 persons heard Dean T. J. Arceneaux of the USL Agriculture Department and James Domengeaux, state chairman of CODOFIL, talk about preserving the French language.

Arceneaux told the group "If we go at it properly, then this area will be able to serve not only the area, the state or the nation but the world. We'll be able to supply the leadership at the international level."

The dean recounted instances where employers seeking help listed French as a basic requirement. He pointed to Ambassador Jefferson Caffery as an example.

Need To Polish

Arceneaux urged the group, composed of school board men, legislators, judges, teachers, students and others, that "we speak good French but we need to polish it. A diamond in the rough is still a diamond. A real French program will really polish it to where our kids will be able to read and write French as well as speak it."

Domengeaux told the group "the asset is irreplaceable and that when oil and gas have been exhausted, tourism might replace the depletion of resources."

"We cannot continue to spend billions and not educate students in communications."

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Students To Increase

The CODOFIL chairman said that next summer between 500 and 600 students would go to France and eventually about 10,000 would go there each summer. Currently 30 French teachers from France are working in Louisiana Schools and they would have sent 150 if we could have placed them," Domengeaux said.

A nominating committee, headed by J. Alfred Begnaud, named the following board which was elected unanimously:

Patrick Stanley Babin, Lafayette; Preston Babineaux, Duson; Emile St. Julien Billeaud, Lafayette; Lester Breaux, Carencro; Alex Broussard, Duson; Mrs. Charles L. Corne, Lafayette; Mrs. George Gardner, Lafayette; Joseph Glorioso Jr., Lafayette; Herbert Heymann, Lafayette; William H. Michot, Lafayette; Malcolm Mouton, Lafayette; J. Alfred Mouton Sr., Lafayette; Mrs. Frederick Nehrbass, Lafayette; John Allen Prejean, Lafayette; Eddie Richard, Scott; Judge Kaliste Saloom, Lafayette; Dr. Gerard St. Martin, Lafayette; Sosthene Truhan, Duson; Earl Valloi, Youngsville; and Mrs. Lyle Williams, Lafayette.

Eight Appointed

Eight persons were appointed to the board by Gov. John McKeithen. They are James Domengeaux, Bob Angers Jr., Dr. T. J. Arceneaux, Allen M. Babineaux, Mrs. C. F. Hamilton, J. Lasse LeBlanc, Edgar G. Mouton Jr. and Msgr. Richard Mouton, all of Lafayette.

The board will meet soon to elect officers for the group.