South Louisiana had to learn the hard way. Not too many years ago this beautiful land populated by men and women of Acadian descent, felt the threat of extinction. It was feared that its ancient culture, and a way of life that had served their ancestors in good stead through centuries, would have felled a lesser people.

This richness was the gift of a second language. Every family spoke French and the children in school were bilingual when they entered first grade. Very few areas in the United States could claim such distinction.

The many educational, economical, and social benefits that could have accrued from knowing two languages were lost. Not too many years ago this beautiful land was solely responsible for the French language that in later years became pitiable — just as the French themselves had been ashamed of their language. Rejuvenation of the French language was the formidable answer to the threat.

The many educational, economical, and social benefits that could have accrued from the advantages of knowing two languages suffered a near-disastrous blow when slowly, without any logical reason or specific speaker, it evolved that French was no longer spoken. Loungers and lovers—and an entire unilingual generation grew up, strangers to the language of Voltaire and Baudelaire, Clementeau and De Gaule.

And yet, ironically, the movement to rejuvenate the French language has received its impetus from the language that in later years became pitiable — just as the French themselves had been ashamed of their language. Rejuvenation of the French language was the formidable answer to the threat.

The rejuvenation of the French language was completely devoid of regional, racial, ethnic, but also holds a very practical purpose. The value of such publicists is in the millions and yet it costs the state nothing. As an example, excellent articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Toronto Star, the Dallas Morning News, the State Farm Match, and other prestigious publications the world over, pointing to our beloved state as a tourist's paradise, a land of two cultures, compatible and complementing each other.

The promotion of Louisiana as a bilingual state will reap a harvest of tourist dollars and pay many times over the cost of a bilingual program. The value of such publicists is in the millions and yet it costs the state nothing. As an example, excellent articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Toronto Star, the Dallas Morning News, the State Farm Match, and other prestigious publications the world over, pointing to our beloved state as a tourist's paradise, a land of two cultures, compatible and complementing each other.

Let one keep in mind too that the Louisiana of today is not the Louisiana of 10 years ago; it is a major effort heretofore carried on within 10 years, now 30 years later, when the ability to speak two languages, when bilingualism as was evident in his talk to the International Congress of French-Speakers held in Lafayette, when he said, "I will do all within my power to do it."