Acadians Are Listed as ‘Race Apart’

Baton Rouge, La. -- An avowed French descendant and an equally determined Cajun Thursday took issue in the Senate with a form sent out under covering letter from the director of Wild Life and Fisheries identifying Acadians as a race apart.

An administration spokesman said it was all a mistake.

Sen. Jack Fruge, Ville Platte, brought the form to the attention of the Senate. He said it was sent to Wild Life agents by Dr. Glasgow, director of the department. The correspondence was relative to blood tests in a survey of mosquito-carried virus.

Fruge displayed a copy of the form which accompanied the letter which asked respondents to check whether they were white, Negro or Cajun. He added he had traced his ancestors and he was a Frenchman.

It prompted Sen. Dudley LeBlanc, Abbeville, an ardent Cajun promoter, to declare of Glasgow: “He might be proficient in fishes but he doesn’t know anything about the people of this state. It is an insult to the people he serves.” LeBlanc demanded an apology, and proceeded to lecture the Senate on the history of Acadians in Louisiana.

It came from Sen. Jamar Adcock, Monroe, who said he was “certainly sorry,” but in defense of the director, “I don’t believe Dr. Glasgow knew that statement was in there.”

To this LeBlanc retorted “It doesn’t matter whether this was a mistake of the head or the heart.”