Luncheon Honors Foreign Children

The ethnic groups of the United States have smothered the native languages in their children because they have forgotten how great their peoples were, a prominent French-speaking Louisianian told three children from Yugoslavia, Portugal and Spain at a luncheon given for them by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) Thursday.

James Ardoin, President of the First National Bank, said that if the children of the ethnic groups in the U.S. were told of the great civilizations they come from, then they would be glad to speak their native tongues alongside English.

Contest Winners

The three children, Branko Pavic from Yugoslavia, Maria Helena Marques from Portugal and Marguerita Ortega from Spain, all 14 years old, are winners in an annual sand castle contest started in 1948 by the Paris newspaper Le Figaro on 165 beaches of France and which has spread to the beaches of 15 countries. The judges in the contest are the children themselves, a total of 80,000 participated this year.

“My children speak French because I tell them who they are and because I speak to them in French,” Ardoin said in French. “Children are what you make them. The CODOFIL movement will succeed only if French is spoken in the homes of the French-speaking families and if it is taught from kindergarten through university — all through the State.”

CODOFIL is a State Agency