FRENCH LANGUAGE REVIVAL -
College and university professors met with James Domengeaux, chairman of the council for the Development of French in Louisiana at the University of Southwestern Louisiana Wednesday to further plans for the revival of French in Louisiana. At the “landmark” meeting were, from left, Dr. Richard E. Chandler, USL professor and department head; Dr. Larry DeRouen, coordinator of foreign languages, McNeese State University, Domengeaux; Mrs. Joan Hernandez, LSU-Eunice; Leo LeBlanc, Canadian government representatives at Lafayette, and Homer Dyess, foreign language supervisor State Department of Education.

Plans Made For Further Development Of French

A “landmark” meeting in Lafayette Wednesday of some 14 representatives of Louisiana colleges and universities with James Domengeaux, chairman of the council for the Development of French in Louisiana, laid plans for the further development of the French language in Louisiana. Also at the meeting were Homer Dyess, Baton Rouge, state supervisor of foreign languages, and Leo LeBlanc, Canadian government representative in Lafayette.

Domengeaux hailed the strong representation of colleges and universities at the meeting as the first step towards having institutions of higher learning in Louisiana take the lead, at least from an educational standpoint, in the renaissance of the French language in Louisiana.

Domengeaux said that CODOFIL can only be the coordinating agency and that the educational guidance for success of the program to make Louisianans bilingual must come from the educators.

“This meeting indicates that for the first time there is a move among the colleges and the universities to coordinate and cooperate with unselfishness and vision to see what is good in the development of French in Louisiana for the good of all,” he added.

Actions Taken

Two important actions were taken at the gathering. A permanent group representing the colleges and universities was formed to coordinate French renaissance activities with CODOFIL. The second action related to plans for the 1971 Summer Study Program at Jonquiere University. Under discussion were details for recruiting, curriculum, credits, etc.

Schools will be notified directly when final details are worked out. CODOFIL hopes that at least 250 students will attend Jonquiere University this summer.

Domengeaux stressed that the action to revive French in Louisiana is not a provincial movement. “We must embark on the development of our ethnic languages,” he said.

Domengeaux argued that to teach foreign languages properly in this country students should be given training in the language as is given in mathematics and English from the first grade up, which is what CODOFIL is trying to achieve in Louisiana.

“If we do it here, it will be accepted in other areas of the country,” he said.

Domengeaux outlined other plans for the rejuvenation of French in Louisiana such as establishment of a quarterly periodical in French, sponsored and managed by all of the colleges and universities in the state.

“We have now reached the stage” he said, “where education must take over the movement at least from the educational standpoint. I appeal for help and support in the educational leadership from the universities and colleges. This strong representation today for the first time gives me confidence and courage that we may win this battle.”
College Representatives Meet Domengeaux

LAFAYETTE, La. — A "landmark" meeting in Lafayette of some 14 representatives of Louisiana colleges and universities, with James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, laid plans for the further development of the French language in Louisiana.

Also at the meeting were Homer Dyess, Baton Rouge, state supervisor of foreign languages, and Leo LeBlanc, Canadian government representative in Louisiana.

Domengeaux hailed the strong representation of colleges and universities at the meeting as the first step towards having institutions of higher learning in Louisiana take the lead, at least from an educational standpoint, in the renaissance of the French language in Louisiana.

"It may be timely for the institutions of higher learning to undertake a stronger leadership, educationally and culturally, in the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana's movement in the rejuvenation of the French language," he told the group.

Domengeaux said that CO-DOPIL can only be the coordinating agency and that the educational guidance for success of the program to make Louisiana bilingual must come from the educators.

"This meeting indicates that for the first time there is a move among the colleges and the universities to coordinate and cooperate with unselfishness and vision to see what is good in the development of French in Louisiana for the good of all," he added.

University and college representatives at the meeting were: Dr. Richard Chandler, University of Southwestern Louisiana; Dr. Gary McCann, chairman, department of foreign languages, Nicholls State University; Father Lawrence Richard, S. J., Loyola University, moderator, foreign language department; Dr. Mary Metz, LSU assistant professor of French; Dr. Elmore DeGrange, chairman, foreign language department, Southern University; Dr. Larry DeRouen, coordinator, foreign languages, McNeese State University; Mrs. Joan Hernandez, LSU-Eunice; Tom Bowman, LSU-Alexandria, chairman, foreign language department; Dr. Oenil Richard, Louisiana Tech, professor of French; Carlos Fandol, president, Foreign Languages Teachers Association and associate professor, Northeast State University; and Nikolai Alexenko, Louisiana College, chairman, foreign language department; and Estelle Perrault, registrar, LSU-Eunice.

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