"Louisiana is on the verge of losing a great heritage and I've come to ask you to help us save this way of life," state Comptroller Roy R. Theriot told the New Orleans Presidents' Cooperative School Club's annual scholarship luncheon Wednesday.

Theriot, taking time off from the International Conference for French Speaking People in the Americas being held this week in Lafayette, spoke to a large group of men and women at the Saxony concerning "The History of the Acadians."

"Today there are some 800,000 people of Acadian descent in Louisiana," the speaker continued, "and no matter where you go, you'll never meet a friendlier, more hospitable people than the Cajuns of southwest Louisiana."

Stressing the importance of learning a second language, Theriot added, "With our background so rich from a French heritage, I would hope you would encourage young people to become interested in learning French."

Also taking part in the luncheon aimed at supporting the organization's High School Scholarship Association were the Rev. David B. Conley of the Lakeview Presbyterian Church; the C. J. Colton Junior High Chorale directed by Mrs. Joyce Alford, James Pfister, representing Mayor Moon Landrieu; James E. Dean, assistant superintendent of the Orleans Parish School Board, and the Rev. David S. Crumley of Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church.

Mrs. E. R. Powell, PCSC president, delivered a welcome to the assemblage and introduced special guests and club officers. Mrs. T. J. Beauregard, first vice-president, served as mistress of ceremonies for the luncheon.

Mrs. Earl S. Skaggs, president of H.S.S.A., stressed the importance of the scholarship program in the high schools which provides funds for food and car fare for some 35 students per year from throughout the city.

Decorations carried out the "Lamp of Learning" theme which commemorated the 46 year of the scholarship work.