School Role in Study of French Clarified

By HOWARD JACOBS

A VIGOROUS DEFENSE of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana in its efforts to stimulate the study of the French language is sounded in R. E. Soule in rebuttal to published criticism by Rousseau Van Voorhies.

The rebuttal was prompted by Van Voorhies' denunciation of the program in which CODOFIL has imported young French language instructors from France to teach in the public schools here.

"Mr. Rousseau Van Voorhies is at it again," wrote Soule. "His now calling our young French language instructors from France 'educational mercenaries' is the lowest insult to our guests in this country and also particularly demeans us here in Louisiana as rather callous and insensitive hosts. I cannot think of a worse unappreciative thing to call young, idealistic and eager teachers... His remarks are offensive and uncalled for. They are our welcomed guests — not undesirable aliens."

"... I have been authoritatively informed that the Orleans Parish School Board has not dropped the French language program with the teachers from France, as Mr. Van Voorhies stated. Indeed, they have expanded it and are encouraging even more people in New Orleans to study and enjoy the French language...."

(Conductor's note: Under the program, the School Board did, in fact, discontinue the appropriation under which the four French teachers each was paid $3600 annually for two years, as well as their transportation costs. But meanwhile, CODOFIL and the French government, in order to sustain the project, volunteered to defray the salary and transportation expenses. Thus the program was expanded to embrace five teachers — the fifth of whom is expected to arrive momentarily. Said Hanes Morris, supervisor of foreign languages for the board: "When the (school) administration dropped the French teacher appropriation, it was purely for budgetary reasons. The program itself has been, and is, an unqualified success.")

Patrons may return any book without assessment to any branch of the main library, regardless of where obtained or how long overdue. In announcing plans for the "Fine Free Days," city librarian M. E. Wright Jr. said that almost 20,000 volumes a year are unreturned, valued in excess of $100,000. And you can make book on it.

DRAMATIC tenor James McCracken resumes a love affair with the South when he opens the New Orleans Opera season in "Turandot" Oct. 26, advises Opera House Association publicist Acel Ross Pullen. McCracken opened last week in "Carmen" with Marilyn Horne at the Metropolitan, singing the role of Don Jose. His first performance as Don Jose was with the Mississippi Opera, which was staged by Arthur Cosenza, general director for the local Opera House Association.

GETTING THE JUMP on bandleader Val Barbara in dispatching the first Christmas card of the season, the dispatcher has employed the unique medium of recycled paper. Who is the dispatcher? None other than Recycled Paper Products, Inc., of Chicago. The "garbage" used in making the paper is assertedly "a diverse collection of litter from our nation's cities."

Snob Hill

THIS PLAINTIVE bit of verse is a Lifted Nifty from BOL, Rotary Club of New Orleans newsletter. It's an indictment of those wintry club members who are so preoccupied in fraternizing with one another that they "high hat" newcomers to the club, thus repudiating the principle of fellowship on which the club was founded:

I see you at the meetings... But you never say hello... You're busy every minute... With the members that you know... I sit among the fellows... And I am a lonely guy... The new ones sit there with me... While the oldsters pass us by... But, gosh, you guys have asked us in... And talked of fellowship... Though you could step across the room... You've never made the trip... Why can't you nod and say hello... Or stop and shake my hand... THEN go and join your other friends... Now that I'd understand... I'll be at our next meeting, too... On that you can depend... So won't you introduce yourself... I want to be a friend.