SPEAKERS AIR HOPE LOUISIANA

**WILL REGAIN BILINGUALISM**

Almost 1,000 Register
At Lafayette Event

By TRENT ANGERS
(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAFAYETTE, La. — Delegates to the International Congress of French Speaking Americas heard speakers express hope that Louisiana will regain the strong English-French bilingualism which she once knew and that French throughout the world will be strengthened as a second international language.

The congress entered its second day Tuesday with crowds noticible smaller attending the morning sessions following a night of Cajun hospitality. Total registration, however, rose to nearly 1,000 Tuesday.

Jean-Louis Gagnon, director of Information Canada, said Tuesday the French language must join the English language rather than fight it if French is to retain and strengthen its status as an international language.

**UNDER NO THREAT**

French as a second international language is not under any threat of extinction but if the position of French in the international community is to be strengthened it must become the second language of the English speaking world, he said.

Louisiana, through current efforts to resurrect the French language and culture, can aid the movement to strengthen French as a second world language, he implied.

A five-man panel of Louisianeans pointed up the value of Louisiana French in international trade and commerce during a Monday session. The session was moderated by Bernard Bienvenu, University of Southwestern Louisiana professor of marketing.

**PHENOMENON TOLD**

The Rev. Charles O'Neill of Loyola University told the convention it's a surprising phenomenon that French has survived in Louisiana.

"One of the factors in the survival was the literary contribution of the free men of color who, proportionately, contributed much more than the whites. In fact, one of the factors in the gradual disappearance of French since the turn of the century was segregation which divided the French-speaking population," the priest said.