Welcome, Our French Friends

It is a great honor for the United States, Louisiana and the City of Lafayette to receive the members of the Union Internationale des Journalistes et de la Presse Francophones. The French language is a fact on our continent. Subterranean up to now, this French fact has emerged in the sunlight. The sympathy of the French-speaking countries, and especially of the French-language press of those countries, towards our continent was a great help in our efforts to tell the world that there exists several million French-speaking people in the New World and that these millions refuse to let die a language that is their own and that they share with another two hundred million people and with some forty countries.

The French-language press, that of this continent and overseas, pulled us out of our isolation. It understood, however, that simple knowledge of a fact does not guarantee its continuance and its advancement. The French-language press therefore came to see us at home. It came to assure us in person of its sympathy and help.

If the French fact on this continent sees its place in the sun strengthened it will be in great part because the French-language press will have wanted it so.

In Louisiana, you will see that not only we are doing what is necessary so that our common language will continue to exist but that in addition we are taking the means for that language to take great strides forward. Different areas of the continent have taken different means to assure the survival and advancement of the language and of the culture it vehiculates. In Louisiana we have chosen the way of a state agency we call CODOFIL. We believe we have the right formula. Some say we have made miracles. If miracles there be, they are made of work, sweat, and sometimes superhuman efforts on the part of those who want to see the language survive and progress, in particular on the part of the founder and prime mover of CODOFIL, James Domengeaux. These miracles are made above all with the strength of a people of a million individuals which refuses to die and with the active support of the rest of Louisiana's population. The Daily Advertiser has this great honor to be able to extend its hand to the journalists of the French-speaking world who have come from so far away to be with us awhile.