

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The fight for control of the 265-seat House of Commons in the federal election to be held June 10 got underway last week as the leaders of the four major political parties embarked on extended speaking tours and as campaigning in the ridings throughout Canada struck an accelerated tempo.

Television looms large in this year's election as party leaders and candidates are making use of network and local facilities to reach voters who may not listen to radio broadcasts and who are not attracted to the traditional election meetings.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, leading the Liberal Party in its attempt to regain power; Mr. John Diefenbaker, Progressive Conservative chieftan; Mr. M.J. Coldwell, CCF leader, and Mr. Solon Low, who heads the Social Credit Party, were heard last week on the CBC television network.

Prime Minister St. Laurent said in his telecast speech that Canada has achieved unity under the Liberal Government and that "with each year since Confederation our sense of belonging to one Canada has grown stronger and stronger". The Liberal Party, he said, was "the only national party, with substantial support in Parliament from every province". Referring to "Canada's recent unparalleled progress", Mr. St. Laurent said that while the lion's share of the credit must go to the Canadian people for the use they have made of Canada's abundant natural resources, the Liberal Party had proved by its record that it has the capacity to make constructive contributions to Canada's progress.

Mr. Diefenbaker, leader of the Progressive Conservatives, warned that Canada would become a one-party state if the Liberals were elected June 10 and said that "at no time anywhere, in any country, has democracy ever survived under a one-party system." Mr. Diefenbaker said the Liberals' use of closure to end last year's pipeline debate was only one of many occasions in recent years when Parliament was "deliber-

ately and defiantly denied". He said that Government had refused to answer questions in Parliament and had withheld important information. His party, if elected, would restore the rights of Parliament, the provinces, and the people in Canada, and would allow provinces and municipalities a greater share of the national tax dollar.

Pressure by the CCF had been largely responsible for the enactment of many social security measures now in effect in Canada, Mr. Coldwell, CCF leader said, but the party was not satisfied with the few steps that have been taken. Canada's great wealth would not be shared by all Canadians, he stated, "as long as we have governments dedicated to the serving of specially privileged groups." Mr. Coldwell said that workers and farmers have not "shared in our wealth to nearly the extent that they should". In addition to advocating better treatment of these groups, and of pensioners, Mr. Coldwell called for the abolition of special privileges in taxation and the establishment of a capital gains tax.

Mr. Low, leading the Social Credit Party, proposed the immediate introduction of a federal old age pension of \$60 per month, with the federal government splitting with the provinces the cost of a supplementary \$40, adding up to \$100; a national health insurance programme; financial policies to balance purchasing power with production; reduced taxation to match revenues with carefully controlled expenditures; low interest mortgage loans to every family wanting a home; a two-price system for wheat, barter deals, and acceptance of local currencies in export sales of farm surpluses; low interest loans for small business and farms; federal aid for arterial highways; a new foreign policy; elimination of waste in defence policy; a new immigration policy; vigorous northern development, and a national transferable pension plan for workers.