

Between April 2 and April 7, one hundred and ten thousand enumerators knocked on doors, registering voters. City dwellers who were missed by the enumerators may still vote if they are registered at least seventeen days before the election. Rural citizens who are missed may vote without being registered, as long as they are accompanied to the polls by someone who is.

Under a new law, any candidate who gets at least 15 per cent of his riding's votes will be reimbursed for some mailing expenses. Registered political parties will be reimbursed for half the cost of 6.5 hours of prime television and radio

time. To register, a party must have at least 50 candidates running. Eight had registered by April 2; four, including the Rhinoceros Party, had until thirty days before the election to do so. The law limits party spending to \$.30 per eligible voter, or about \$4.3 million. (In 1974, the Liberal party spent \$5.5 million; the Conservative, \$4.45 million; and the NDP, \$354,000.) Individual candidates can spend \$1 per voter on the first 15,000 electors in their riding, \$.50 per voter on the next 10,000 and \$.25 per voter on the remainder. Tax deductions are granted to people who contribute to registered parties.



"I don't have a public opinion!"

A Synopsis of the Last Three Elections

In 1968 Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson resigned his leadership of the Liberal party, and Pierre Elliott Trudeau, then age 49, was elected at the party's leadership convention. He automatically became prime minister of the minority Liberal government and almost immediately called an election. His style fixed him in many minds as a Canadian John Kennedy, and "Trudeaumania" was born. His major opponent, Robert Stanfield, the Conservative leader, had established a more traditional image. The Liberals won a majority, but remained weak in the prairie provinces.

Trudeau's style in office and his economic and

bilingualism policies met opposition, and many in the West accused the government of favouring Ontario and Quebec, the most populous provinces. In the 1972 election, Liberal support dropped in British Columbia and Ontario. The Liberals survived as a minority government with 109 seats to the Conservatives' 107. The New Democrats, with 31 members, used their balance of power to influence Liberal legislation.

In 1974 the NDP, which had been supporting the Liberal government's economic policies, refused to accept the budget. The Liberal government was defeated in the House of Commons,