



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**GENERAL ELECTION ANNOUNCED:** The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, announced in the House of Commons at the adjournment hour on Monday, April 25, that it is the intention of the Government at the end of this week to recommend to His Excellency that he dissolve the present Parliament.

Asked if he would not advise the House of the date upon which voting is to take place, the Prime Minister replied:

"It would be quite improper for me to announce the date of the election until His Excellency has accepted the advice we shall tender at the end of the week to dissolve Parliament. I said I thought that the election should be held as early as possible. If hon. members will refer to the Elections Act they will see that with dissolution coming at the end of the week it would leave it possible to have an election on June 27."

In the early portion of his statement the Prime Minister spoke in part as follows:

"... All hon. members know there must be a general election within the next year, and there are a good many reasons why one should be held earlier than that. In the first place there has been a change in the leadership of the Government since the general election of 1945; and it has always been my view that I should attempt to get from the people, at as early a date as possible, confirmation of what has been done.

"When I became Prime Minister in November of last year certain developments were in process which could not be interrupted without serious prejudice to the interests of our own country, and perhaps to wider interests still. I refer to the negotiations then in progress with the delegation from Newfoundland, and to the discussions being carried on at that time in Washington respecting the North Atlantic Security Pact. Once the agreement with Newfoundland was signed on December 11, it provided that the union should be concluded on March 31, and it was essential to hold a session of Parliament in order to approve the agreement. In the opinion of the Government it was also essential to deal with certain emergency legislation which otherwise would have expired within two months after the opening of the session or on March 31 last, whichever date was the earlier. It was also felt that the people of Canada would expect to have the budget presented at an early date; and it was the desire of the Government, before authorizing the signature of Canada to the North Atlantic Treaty, to secure the approval of Parliament to the principles underlying that Treaty.

"All these essential steps have been taken. The union with Newfoundland has been completed. The North Atlantic Treaty has been signed. The budget has been presented, and the estimates for the current fiscal year have been before