

CA1
EA980
C17

Mar. 1974
DOCS c.1

CANADA

TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E
3 5036 01031430 3

"What the Commons — and the bill was an all-party creation — has attempted to provide is a framework that will limit from both ends the degree to which money can influence the outcome of an election. Those with an overabundance of cash will face controls on how much they can spend to win a seat and those without enough to adequately spread their message to the voters will receive help from public funds." TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL

LIBRARY DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

A Lid for Election Expenses

Canada does not elect a President or a Vice President and its voters are not registered by party (they are enumerated by persons who come in pairs to the voter's door). Canada does, however, have national elections, and in recent years they have become very expensive.

On January 14, 1974, the Canadian Parliament passed the Election Expenses Act. It puts a lid on the amount which can be spent in any election (or by any one candidate) and provides for sub-

sidies and a limited amount of free TV time for all serious candidates. It requires that all campaign contributors who give more than \$100 be publicly named. It encourages small contributors by making donations of \$500 and less (but not those above) tax deductible. It is designed to make political parties less dependent on vested interests.

The new law reflects the structure of Canada's Parliamentary government; national elections in-

"It's not how they spend their money getting elected that infuriates Rodney . . . it's how they spend his after they're elected."

