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NATION'S BUSINESS Talk by Mr. David Lewis -- CCF National Secretary, Oct. 8/47.

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Why do governments act the way they do, so often against the interests of the people? The reason is, a friend of mine once said, because half the time we're unconscious, and the other half we don't care. Half the time, he went on, most of us aren't even aware that there is a government, and when something particularly bad wakes us up, we get mad for a while, then shrug our shoulders and do nothing about it.

I think this friend was not far off the mark. Governments often act against the common interest only because they rely on the apathy of the people to save them from the consequences. This is a fatal weakness in our political tradition which the CCF is working hard to cure. For we believe that democracy can work only if the people stand constantly on guard for their rights and that governments will serve the community only if the people themselves control the party in power.

That's why the CCF is always interested in recruiting new and more members into its ranks; that's why we are launching a national membership campaign for one month, from October 15th to November 15th.

If we were the same kind of political party as the Liberals and Conservatives, we would not worry about membership; they don't. Traditional Canadian parties have worked on the assumption that it's not good for the people to know too much about political programs, and that certainly they should not be given too much power inside political parties. What the old parties worry about are wealthy contributors who can supply the resources for building a slick election machine. They don't even try to build a mass organization -- members with a real voice might be an embarrassment to the machine.

But to the CCF, membership is the basis of the entire organization. CCF membership gives the right and obligation to take part in shaping party policy, and in electing leaders and candidates. The purpose is to have the party controlled, not by a leader, or a group of leaders, but by all the members. We are therefore anxious to make the CCF as representative as possible of every section in the country.

Thus we invite all Canadians -- workers in mine and in factory, on the land and in the office, women as well as men, and young people as well as older folk -- we invite them all to join the CCF as members. We don't expect them to join unless they are in general agreement with CCF program and philosophy. But we want all those who