

Paris, December 29, 1955

PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGNING IN FRANCE
Round-up of campaign
Positive developed: 47 meters - 157 ft

Less than a week from the General Elections in France the political campaign is building up steam all over the country.

Although thousands of Parisians have left the capital for Yuletide holidays, most of them will be back home for January 2nd to cast their ballots and go to the polls. Meanwhile everything is ready in the snowy mountain resorts to greet them for a few days of fresh air. Snow-plows are at work to free blocked roads so that vacationers as well as Candidates can reach their goals.

In this tiny village of the Alps, LESHOUCHEs, the campaign is also going on, although snow is scarce and vacationers have arrived. The meeting is a friendly one in the local Inn, and the discussion are lively between the tough mountaineers. Meanwhile instead of reading the political placards, village children are enjoying their first snow-ball battle...

In Central FRANCE, in the small village of Saint DIERY at the foot of the Mont Dore, voters are not going to the political meetings, but the candidates are coming themselves to the lonely farms to discuss their programs with the assembled family. Newspapers and pamphlets are distributed and will be carefully read during the evening pause. In the village, however, the men are discussing as they pass party placards; and the discussion goes on to the village "Cafe" where the candidates held their meetings. Even village housewives are now taking a growing interest in the coming election and, broom in hand discuss the issues and programs...

Around Paris, in the suburbs and other provinces the campaign is going on and most political leaders are holding several meetings daily. Most of them are attended by interested audiences and there is no doubt that the number of voters will show a sensational increase against former figures. Some of the meetings are quiet, some are more animated by contradictors and passions are showing. This occurs principally in Paris with big Party leaders, such as Mr. Mendès-France former Premier and Leader of the Radical-Socialist party who made an alliance with the Socialist Party for the election, Mr. Edgar Faure leader of the R.C.R. who was expelled from his former party the Radical Socialist Party, etc...