

CAP Candidate Perea Favors Continuing Fight

By HAROLD J. LIDIN

PONCE—A buoyant Dr. Salvador Perea, gubernatorial candidate of the Christian Action Party (CAP), said last night he favored "continuing the fight."

The weakish showing of the CAP, claimed Dr. Perea, can be explained by "lack of time."

"We are just beginning," he affirmed.

The registration and election campaign of the party, Perea said, have laid "a firm base" for future political activity.

Asked if he thought it would have been better to delay launching of the CAP until after the

1960 election, Perea retorted that creation of a Catholic party in Puerto Rico "could not be postponed."

"As the campaign progressed," the 63-year-old Catholic University professor explained, "we realized how urgent" was the formation of the CAP.

Perea said his only regret was that the party had not been organized earlier.

While the CAP failed to score heavily at the polls, he commented, it has had a "healthy effect" on Puerto Rico.

Creation of a party based on Christian principles, said Perea,

has awakened the "indifferent Catholics" of the island.

Catholics are now aware that their "prelates are the living voice" of the Church.

It was essential that island Catholics become conscious that their Church is not yet "another organization with an ordinary board of directors," Perea remarked.

The CAP candidate was reached at his home in Ponce, where he was listening to the radio accounts of the election results.

A formal and more complete statement of his reaction to the election would not be forthcoming before Thursday, he said.