

B/W - Blake Evon

Evon Blake remembered as colourful, fearless

PRIME Minister Edward Seaga, the Government and both the JLP and the PNP have paid tribute to Mr. Evon Blake, veteran journalist and publisher, who died on Monday at the University Hospital at the age of 83.

Mr. Seaga said that with the passing of Mr. Blake, "Jamaica has lost a colourful, outstanding and outspoken son."

As a journalist and publisher, Mr. Blake was always a trailblazer and fearless in championing the causes which he espoused, Mr. Seaga said.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I extend sincere sympathy to his family."

Also on behalf of the Govern-

ment, Mr. Mike Henry, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for culture, extended sympathies to Mr. Blake's family and friends.

Mr. Bruce Golding, the JLP's chairman, said that Mr. Blake was a "colourful, fearless and aggressive writer", who not only believed in the freedom of the press, but also in the fact that press freedom must be supported by responsible journalism.

He said that Mr. Blake pursued relentlessly issues which were of

interest and importance to the public, but was always conscious of the role of the media in building Jamaica and heightening the awareness and consciousness of the Jamaican people.

"It is noteworthy that he was a part of that community of thinkers, writers and activists who espoused and missionized the philosophy and teachings of Marcus Garvey and he played a prominent role in shaping the opinions which led to self-government and independence for Jamaica.

"The Jamaica Labour Party deeply regrets his passing and extend its heart-felt condolences."

Mr. Michael Manley, president of the PNP, in his tribute to Mr. Blake, said he was "a special kind of journalist."

"His was an hard-hitting style of writing which he punched from his typewriter into columns in **The Daily Gleaner** and **The Star** and in two monthly magazines, **Spotlight** and **Newday**, which he published and edited for many years.

"His pictorial, **Beautiful Jamaica**, which he updated several times, was used by Government agencies, such as the Jamaica Tourist Board, as a promotional tool and it became a souvenir-must for thousands of our visitors."

"To his family and former colleagues in journalism I express my deep sorrow."

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