



GLOWING TRIBUTE TO THE GG: Mr. Prakash Vaswani, (left), honorary secretary of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ), having read in glowing terms

about the life of Jamaica's Head of State, the Most Hon-ourable Sir Florizel Glasspole, presents the citation to him at the Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston, on Saturday night.

The night belonged to Sir Florizel

Saturday night belonged to Governor-General the Most Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole. The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) saw to it. It was in the main ballroom of the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel that they met to honour and praise Sir Florizel in grand style.

In his remarks, American Ambassador Loren Lawrence traced Sir Florizel's history as a politician, as a Parliamentarian, as a Labour Leader of magnitude and duration and concluded that through his morality, his personality, his character, and his bearing, Sir Florizel had become a kind of Jamaican Renaissance Man.

Turning to Sir Florizel's role as Education Minister under the PNP, Mr. Lawrence said he had laboured successfully to open, for the first time in Jamaica, the door for the children of the poor to receive education.

"Emphatic in consideration is the engine of motivation," the American diplomat continued, "the spark plug of ignition; the counselling held and guidance which keeps him going..." Mr. Lawrence was of course referring to the supportive role of Lady Glasspole whom Sir Florizel married in 1934.

As Governor General, Mr. Lawrence noted that Sir Florizel as he pursued his role, understanding his 'job description', and understanding the volatile politics in Jamaica was motivated to a number of conditions necessary to nation-building.

In keeping with this understanding, Sir Florizel is dedicated to contributing to the creation of unity among all Jamaicans. Unity that could strike at the extreme divisiveness of politics and opinion as developed in Jamaica, he continued.

Mr. Lawrence told his audience that the second item of conviction which the Governor-General brought to his office was the devout belief in the work ethic. To that end he was determined to establish a firm ethic for work as an example for all Jamaicans, as he was determined by his word and deeds to cause all Jamaicans to know that work was not an enemy, but rather the ethic of work was the road not only of individual accomplishment and success, but also the road to national accomplishment and success.

From his exposure to the Governor General, Ambassador Lawrence said he knew that he feared and abhorred hate. He said he knew also from his life and professional experience that hate was a cancer, one which could corrupt and destroy, and thus he demonstrated by word and deed that hate had no place in personal life and in national life.

ANOTHER GREAT CONCERN of Sir Florizel was societal indiscipline, according to Mr. Lawrence. "Here was a man seeking a beautiful Jamaica by searching for beautiful Jamaicans. Beautiful Jamaicans who responded to society's control devices; the devices of

common courtesy and good morality. He sought these disciplines with the full knowledge that a society without discipline is not a society but rather a jungle mob."

And so Sir Florizel saw in his job description unlimited opportunity for adding to the progress of his country. Ambassador Lawrence pointed to the ways in which Sir Florizel accomplished these objectives.

He said: "In his words, he spoke over and over again to unify; and defy hate, in deeds, he demonstrated over and over again the value of work and sought to overcome all forms of societal indiscipline."

"...I believe His Excellency to truly be Jamaica's Renaissance Man; he is truly a man of many parts — in fact the only part I can find which he has missed is that phenomena known as Jamaica Time, for he is always prompt and on time."

WORDS AND DEEDS

Speaking of Sir Florizel's "words and deeds", Mr. Lawrence pointed to several old newspaper articles and the headlines which caught his eyes. He quoted some of these headlines and pointed to the Head of State's skill, wisdom, dignity, leadership, mystery and awe. But Sir Florizel had walked the lines of impartiality; he had been responsive and helpful to all, through it he had

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SIR FLORIZEL'S NIGHT

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maintained the dignity of his office and daily in his words and deeds, he had found ways to improve all and to "develop Jamaica", he said.

IN RECOGNIZING SIR FLORIZEL, the 11th representative of the Crown in Jamaica and as Jamaica's Third Governor-General, the PSOJ through honorary secretary Mr. Prakash Vaswani, read and presented a citation to him.

An aura of well-being attended the evening and the red roses which adorned the tables seemed a fitting gesture to Sir Florizel, a florist in his own right. The Joe Williams Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Assistant Commissioner Joe Williams entertained with lively selections.

SURPRISE

IN HIS REPLY, Sir Florizel expressed tremendous surprise at the gesture made by the PSOJ and particularly for the huge birthday cake which was in recognition of his 72nd birthday.

Sir Florizel spoke of his early education, where discipline was rigorously maintained. This, he said, he has never forgotten. He spoke about his launching out into the field of accountancy in a dry goods store. Soon Sir Florizel joined the trade union movement, his activities in this field spanning two decades. These were exciting times for Sir Florizel and his colleagues.

However, it was in the political

arena that Sir Florizel made his greatest mark. As Minister of Education, he said, he spent his most exciting years as a politician. It was a time when he took the "bit between his teeth", but he had the full support of the people in his Ministry.

Then in 1973, the then Prime Minister of Jamaica, Mr. Michael Manley, invited Sir Florizel to become Governor-General. He said he had no particular urge to become Governor-General but after encouragement from many people he accepted the position.

HE CONTINUED: "But in my mind, I secretly decided on four major principles - that I would defend the Constitution to the death; that I would strive at all times to be impartial in office neither favouring Government nor Opposition, but representing Jamaica; that I would strive at all times to promote and encourage unity among all our people in our country and that I would set my face against those things that brought shame and disgrace to our country."

Sir Florizel said it was unfortunate that many persons in the country neither understood nor believed that the Governor-General should be impartial. Continuing, Sir Florizel said "They would wish the Governor General to be beholden to the Party whose Prime Minister recommended him for office and would wish him to be a Party lackey supporting the Government which recommended him for office under all circumstances."