

Coming under the influence of such stalwarts as the late N. N. Nethersole and E. E. A. Campbell with whom he was associated in such fledgling political efforts as the Jamaica Reform Association and the Kingston Citizens Association, the trade unionist was steadily being groomed into becoming a politician. With the coming of Universal Adult Suffrage and the first general elections under the new Jamaican Constitution of 1944, he was ready. An early member of the People's National Party, he was selected as the candidate for East Kingston in the House of Representatives, and won a smashing victory. He was one of the small band of P.N.P. members who formed the Opposition to the Jamaica Labour Party in those early days. He has held the East Kingston seat ever since. He has established himself as a pillar of Parliament, serving not only as a Minister of Government but as Leader of the House and coming to be regarded as the Parliamentarian par excellence in Jamaica.

So now has come the time for his country to call him to greater service and to reward him with one of the highest positions that a son of this nation can attain. Florizel Glasspole, born in Kingston in September 1909, goes to King's House as Governor-General, the representative of the Queen of Jamaica and Head of State of his native land. He takes to his new and lofty position great gifts of leadership, of organization, of dedication, of love of country. A long career in public life, including the proud record of nearly 30 years of continuous service in Parliament, has been crowned with national acclaim and recognition.

All Jamaica rejoices that this most worthy son of the soil, a scion of a respected Jamaican family and a product of one of its best schools, now stands at the pinnacle of achievement: at once an adornment of the high office of Governor-General and a shining example of the heights to which Jamaicans can reach in their own country.

By decision of the Government of the day, the new Governor-General will not receive a royal honour, as did his predecessor. A new indigenous national honour is being created for him, which will set the seal of national approbation on his appointment. But Florizel Glasspole should have need of no special recognition to mark his rise to final eminence. For long years have his fellow Jamaicans recognized his ability and worth: the acclaim of his countrymen on his latest elevation will be perhaps the greatest reward for this son of Jamaica who has served his country so ably, and who now moves into his nation's noblest sphere of influence and prestige. So fitting, too, that his elevation coincides with Labour Day, symbolic of his life's work.

D.G. Columbus 24-May 73
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1973

FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE

Service to one's country is its own reward. In the old civilizations, patriotism, love of country, was regarded as one of the highest virtues. To give of one's time, one's talent, to the land of one's birth is to serve one of the highest and noblest purposes of the citizen. And when the time comes for the exaltation in office of one who has served his country and his people well, it is a time for rejoicing. A time to say "well done".

Florizel Glasspole has had a long and distinguished career in the service of his country. From the early years of 1930, before the Jamaica as we know it today took shape, the pastor's son and embryo politician began his work in the trade union field that was to make him one of a group of valiant pioneers of this workers' movement in the island; and to prepare him for later and greater activity at the national level in the political field. The old Clerks Union, now only a dim memory, the Water Commission Workers Association which he organized in 1940, the Mental Hospital Workers Union, also in 1940, all testify to his early trail-blazing labours in this area. So, too, do the Municipal and Parochial Workers Union, the Jamaica Printers and Allied Workers Union, the Hospitals and Allied Workers Union, the Machado Employees Union. Truly a remarkable performance by a remarkable group of men, among whom Mr. Glasspole was pre-eminent for persistence, dedication and industry.

That was the beginning of an illustrious contribution to the public life of Jamaica. A scholarship to the famous Ruskin College, Oxford, where he went in 1946, gave him special training in the field of trade unionism. Association with the powerful Trades Union Congress of Britain, gave him added knowledge and experience. On his return home, he made his mark in the local sphere of labour organization by spearheading the formation of the Trades Union Congress of Jamaica and serving for many years as its general secretary. When that union passed through troubled times in 1952, Florizel Glasspole was again in the leadership in forming the National Workers Union and helping to build it into the islandwide workers' body which it is today.

24 May 1973