

B/N - Glasspole

The G-G is

Florizel Governor general

bowing out

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JAMAICA IS LIKELY to have a new Governor General by August next year.

The Most. Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole, Governor General, hinted yesterday that he was on his way out of office after 16 years as the representative in Jamaica of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Yesterday, at the end of his traditional congratulatory message at the 13th Spelling Bee Championship luncheon at the Oceana Hotel, downtown Kingston, Sir Florizel, said:

"I thank you all very much and I say farewell because I don't think I will be at another function like this".

Speaking with the **Gleaner** after the function, he said: "I will be around for sometime yet before I retire but I am making plans to leave."

Sir Florizel gave no definite date but he said he felt sure he would not be in office by August next year.

Sir Florizel was sworn in as Governor General of Jamaica on June 27, 1973, at the age of 64 years, succeeding Sir Clifford Campbell.

The **Gleaner** learnt yesterday that Sir Florizel, who will be 80 years old on September 25, is planning a big birthday party this year, unlike in previous years when he marked his birthday at King's House with smaller functions.

Much speculation about who will succeed him has been aired in recent days.

Some citizens of Central Jamaica say the wind is blowing in their direction and that one of their native sons, Mr. Winston Jones of Manchester, the former Minister of Works, is in line for the job.

Other candidates being men-

tioned are Senator Howard Cooke, a long time stalwart of the ruling People's National Party, and now Speaker of the Senate. Asked recently about this, Senator Cooke replied: "It would be an honour to serve."

Mr. Douglas Fletcher, a lawyer and former Ambassador to Washington, D.C., is favoured in some quarters.

A front-runner, too is Mr. Dudley Thompson, Q.C., who is the High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria.

But the speculation has been even more fanciful.

Some people argue that with both the ruling People's National Party and the Opposition Jamaica Labour Party firmly committed to Republican status for Jamaica, the Rt. Hon. Michael Manley, Prime Minister, would most likely be the first President of the Republic of Jamaica.

They say that with Mr. Manley seemingly leaving most of the Prime Ministerial tasks these days to Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, Q.C., it is likely that before the Jamaican Constitution is changed to alter the status of the country as a Monarchy, Mr. Manley could very well step down as Prime Minister and serve as Governor General, before making the transition to being the first President of the Republic of Jamaica.

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GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE