

GB/1889/00

**SIR FLORIZEL DESCRIBED AS
MOST OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN**

KINGSTON, Dec. 5 (JIS):

Prime Minister, P. J. Patterson, today described the late Governor-General, Sir Florizel Glasspole, as "the most outstanding Parliamentarian of our generation".

Mr. Patterson said he dedicated his career to elevating the position of the working class and making sure that the country attained political independence.

"No matter how difficult the problems, no matter how hard the struggle along the way, no matter the level of rebuke and criticism which came from those who did not agree with him, he held fast to his vision of Jamaica, for in the end he believed in himself and in his countrymen and women," the Prime Minister said at the funeral service for Sir Florizel, which was held at the Coke Methodist Church, downtown Kingston.

Sir Florizel who served as Governor-General from 1973 to 1990 died on November 25 at the age of 91. He was given a State funeral by the Government. The late Governor-General was buried beside his wife in the Providence Methodist Church cemetery at Liguanea, Old Hope Road.

The Prime Minister said Sir Florizel was a "supremely patriotic Jamaican, with a strong belief in the ability of his fellow Jamaicans to shape their own destinies".

"He gave his constituents a new conception of themselves and their possibilities in the world. In return, the people elevated him to the highest position of the land," Mr. Patterson said.

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Sir Florizel...2

The Prime Minister traced the career of the late Governor-General from his entry into the trade union movement early in the 1930s where he devoted himself to promoting the cause of the less fortunate, to his ascendancy to the highest office of the land, that of Governor-General in 1973.

He said that as a trade unionist, Sir Florizel was always "in the thick of things".

"His vibrant energy, his undoubted skills as a speaker and debater, his formidable genius as an administrator, his honesty and integrity were the attributes which propelled him to growing prominence," Mr. Patterson said.

One of the founding members of the 1939 Jamaica United Clerks' Association, Sir Florizel would be a prominent figure in the development of the National Labour Movement for the next 16 years. He served as Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Council, the Trade Union Congress and subsequently the National Workers Union.

The Prime Minister said that along with his trade union activities, Sir Florizel became increasingly involved in the fledgling People's National Party (PNP) and when the PNP got its first electoral victory in 1955, Sir Florizel was appointed Minister of Labour. He was also appointed Leader of Government Business in the House.

Mr. Patterson said that as Minister of Labour, Sir Florizel fought to save the Farm Workers' Programme that was in a state of decline.

In 1957 he was appointed Minister of Education and it was during his tenure that the Common Entrance Examination was introduced, providing a free place in high school for the children of the less fortunate. It was also during his tenure that the College of Arts, Science and Technology (CAST), now the University of Technology (UTech), was established, the Prime Minister recalled.

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