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Profile

GLASSPOLE, FLORIZEL

His Excellency,  
the Most Honourable  
Sir Florizel Augustus  
Glasspole,  
O.N., G.C.M.G., C.D., LL.D. (Hon.).



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His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Florizel Augustus Glasspole was born in Kingston, Jamaica on September 25, 1909. He is the elder son of the late Methodist Minister, Rev. Theophilus Glasspole, and his wife Florence.

He received his early education at Buff Bay Infant School, Central Branch Primary School and Wolmers High School for Boys. After leaving school he worked for a short time in the Civil Service and began studying accountancy with the late Mr. R. A. Parkinson. He continued his studies by correspondence courses from the Scottish School of Accountancy and worked for several years at his profession.

In 1946, he was awarded a British Trades Union Congress scholarship and studied at Ruskin College, Oxford. He toured a number of Trade Union Offices and observed the British methods of Trade Union organisation and operations.

#### TRADE UNION ARENA

Sir Florizel entered the Trade Union arena in 1937 and has served this movement with great distinction.

He has held the following positions:

- |         |                   |   |                                   |
|---------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1937-40 | General Secretary | - | Jamaica United Clerks Association |
| 1939-47 | General Secretary | - | Trades Union Advisory Council     |

- |         |                   |   |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| 1941-48 | General Secretary | - Water Commission Manual Workers Union         |
| 1942-48 | President         | - Jamaica Printers and Allied Workers Union     |
| 1945-52 | President         | - Machado Employees Union                       |
| 1947-52 | General Secretary | - Jamaica Trades Union Congress                 |
| 1944-47 | President         | - Mental Hospital Workers Union                 |
| 1945-47 | General Secretary | - Municipal and Parochial General Workers Union |
| 1944-47 | President         | - The General Hospital and Allied Workers Union |
| 1952-55 | General Secretary | - National Workers Union                        |

#### POLITICAL LIFE

Sir Florizel joined the early nationalist movement by helping to organize the People's National Party which was founded in 1938. He became Secretary of the Party's Parliamentary Group in 1944 and held this office to May 1973. He also held the post of Vice President of the Party for several years and was a

member of the Executive from 1940 to May 1973.

In 1944, the year of Universal Adult Suffrage in Jamaica, Sir Florizel was one of the four P.N.P. candidates to win a seat in the House, representing the Constituency of Eastern Kingston and Port Royal from 1944 to May 1973 when he resigned his seat in order to take up his new responsibilities as Governor-General of Jamaica.

Sir Florizel was a member of the Standing Federation Committee on West Indian Federation, 1953-1958 and a member of the Committee which drafted and finalized the Constitution for Independent Jamaica in 1962.

#### OTHER INTERESTS

He has served on many public boards and committees. These include Wages Board, Apprenticeship Committee, Industrial Relations Committee and Minimum Wage Boards for the baking, printing and dry good trades.

He was an ex-officio member of the K.S.A.C. from 1944 to 1955, a Director of the Institute of Jamaica from 1944 to 1950 and a Director of City Printery Limited from 1944 to 1950.

In his younger days Sir Florizel was at one time Secretary of the Coke Young Men's Club and a keen debater, representing the Club in many debating contests.

He was one of the leading personalities in the National Reform Association (1937), and the Kingston and St. Andrew Literary and Debating Society.

In 1934, he married Ina Josephine Kinlocke. They have one daughter, Sara Lou.

In spite of a full public programme, Sir Florizel still maintains his interest in sports and gardening and is a keen dog lover.

He is a member of the Coke Methodist Church.

#### HONOURS AND AWARDS

In 1970, Mr. Glasspole received the Jamaican Honour, Commander of the Order of Distinction.

In 1973, the Order of Andres Bello was conferred on him by the President of Venezuela.

On his appointment as Governor General in 1973, he was awarded the Order of the Nation.

In 1978 he was awarded the Order of the Liberator by the President of Venezuela. In 1979 he received the Gleaner Honour Award.

In 1981 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II conferred the Knight Grand Cross (of the Order) of St. Michael and St. George (G.C.M.G.) on the Governor General.

In 1982 Sir Florizel was awarded the LL.D Degree (Hon.) by the University of the West Indies.

The Governor General is addressed: His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Florizel Glasspole, O.N., G.C.M.G., C.D., LL.D (Hon.).



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Printed and Published by the  
Jamaica Information Service  
55A Half Way Tree Rd.  
Kingston 10

March 1982