

# Personal Mention

BY KITTY KINGSTON

## Mrs. Manley boosts island

MRS. EDNA MANLEY, wife of Jamaica's Premier, was featured recently in the Washington Post during their stop-over in the Capitol en route home from London.

"No tourist brochure can out-boast tall, stately but twinkling-eyed Mrs. Manley when it comes to talking up her island home," says writer Elizabeth Ford who mentions Mrs. Manley's contribution to art in Jamaica—"culturally, she's had both hands in Jamaica's current renaissance . . . she was among a group of six who campaigned for an art school in which the folklore of the people could be encouraged and developed."

Writer Ford mentions "music and dance based on island custom and traditions are probably the top branches of Jamaica's home-grown culture tree . . . fans for Harry Belafonte stretch from Kingston to Montego Bay but Mrs. Manley makes it clear that Harry doesn't sing calypso. He vocalizes Jamaican 'mentoes'.

"She also refers to the Institute of Jamaica pioneered a century ago; the Jamaica Welfare Association which operates in the mountain villages and encourages 'cottage industries'—and island-made straw hats, straw bags and straw mats are woven for markets all over the world."