

B/N Patterson P.J.

- Commonwealth Summit Conferences in Toronto (1973), Kingston (1975) and London (1977);
- the Group of 77, of which he was Ministerial Chairman;
- the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, signed in Kingston (1977);
- UNCTAD meetings in Chile (1972), Kenya (1975) and the Philippines (1978);
- Meetings of the Non-Aligned Countries in India, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia;
- SELA, ECLA and UNDP Conferences.

After the PNP victory in the General Elections of 1989, P.J. Patterson was once again appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development, Planning and Production.

Between 1989 and November 1991 he was responsible for the:

- preparation of the National Five Year Development Plan;
- establishment of the National Planning Council;
- National Productivity Council;
- Natural Resources Conservation Authority;
- promulgation of a National Policy for Science and Technology.

Between November 1990 and December 1991, he held the portfolio of Minister of Finance and Planning.

His achievements include the:

- drafting of the new Banking Act;
- modernization of the preparation of the annual Budget;
- modernization of the taxation system, including the introduction of the General Consumption Tax, in order to tax consumption rather than production;
- reduction of stamp duty on imports of raw materials and capital goods;
- reduction of tax on bonus shares;

- increase of the income tax threshold;
- removal of wage guidelines;
- re-activation of the Hotel Incentives and Resort Cottages Act;
- tax exemption on gratuities of 10 per cent or less;
- increase in revenue collection;
- removal of income tax on approved productivity schemes.

LEGAL PRACTICE

During the 1980's, Mr. Patterson returned to the practice of law. His success in the court room in this period qualified him for the distinction of being called to the Inner Bar as a Queen's Counsel in 1984.

His reputation as a skilled negotiator led to his being appointed adviser to the Government of Belize, in its final negotiations leading up to independence in 1982. He was also engaged as a consultant by the Commonwealth Secretariat, to assist in drafting the Constitution of Independent Belize.

PERSONAL LIFE

Mr. Patterson's two children, Richard and Sharon, are both currently pursuing graduate studies.

His interests include jazz, Jamaican music, and such spectator sports as cricket, boxing, track and field, and tennis.

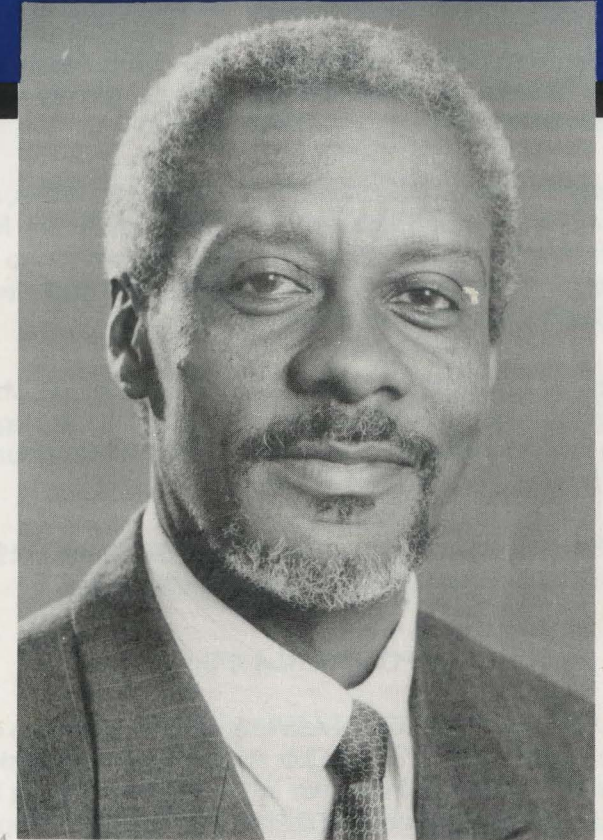
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P R O F I L E



B/N

Rt. Hon. P. J. Patterson

P. C., Q. C., M. P.
Prime Minister of Jamaica



RT. HON. P. J. PATTERSON, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Jamaica,
March 30, 1992 – Re-elected March 30, 1993

Percival Noel James Patterson was born in 1935. His parents, Henry Patterson, a farmer and Ina James, a primary school teacher, were both from the parish of Hanover.

He was educated at Somerton Primary School, St. James, and won a Purscell Trust Scholarship to Calabar High School, from which he graduated in 1953. From there he went on to the University of the West Indies (UWI) at Mona, and graduated in 1958 with a B.A. (Honours) in English.

He studied Law at the London School of Economics (LSE), where he was awarded the Leverhume Scholarship and the Sir Hughes Parry prize for Excellence in the Law of Contracts. He graduated from that institution in 1963 with an LL.B.

Mr. Patterson was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1963 and was also admitted to the Jamaican Bar in that year.

POLITICAL LIFE

P. J. Patterson began political activity at UWI, where he was one of the founders of the Political Club. As its President, he presided at the first political address given in the Caribbean by the late Dr. Eric Williams, founder of Trinidad and Tobago's People's National Movement.

In 1955, Mr. Patterson took part in a UWI project which brought him into contact with several prominent members of the People's National Party (PNP). Also in that year, he made his first appearance as a speaker on a political platform, in the election campaign for the candidate for Western Hanover. After that experience, he never looked back. Political involvement would take precedence over every other interest in his life. On several occasions he even interrupted his academic studies to participate in political activities.

After graduating from the UWI, he joined the PNP's organizing staff. His early training and service were in St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, Manchester and Westmoreland.

He has served the PNP as:

- Party Organizer (1958 – 1960);
- Member of the Constituency Executive;
- Member of the National Executive Council;
- Member of the Party Executive (1964 – 1969);
- Vice President (1969 – 1982);
- Chairman (1983 – 1992);
- President (1992 – present).

To each of these positions, P. J. Patterson has brought the weight of a considerable intellect, a belief in the value of his contribution to the development of the Party and the country, and a sincere love for the people sought and served.

Mr. Patterson has been praised for his ability to work in a non-confrontational and principled manner with party cadres, and to guide discussions in a manner that allows equal respect for the opinions of all involved. He is also acknowledged as being among the best campaign managers the PNP has seen, having served as campaign Director in the General Elections of 1972, 1976 and 1989.

SERVICE TO THE STATE

- Senator, Leader of Opposition Business (1969 – 1970)
- Member of Parliament (M.P.) South-East Westmoreland
- Minister of Industry & Tourism (1972 – 1977)
- Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (1978 – 1980)
- Minister of Development, Planning & Production (November 1989 – February 1990)

- Minister of Finance and Planning (November 1990 – December 1991)
- Prime Minister (March 30, 1992)
- Re-elected Prime Minister (March 30, 1993)

Foreign Decorations

- Order of Liberator Simon Bolivar First Class (September 1, 1992)
Venezuela's highest honour awarded to a foreign official.
- Appointed as Member of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom (December 1992).

P. J. Patterson's first taste of political service to the State came with his nomination to the Senate in 1967.

He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1970, as Member for South-East Westmoreland. He held that seat until 1980 and was again re-elected in 1989.

In 1972, the victory at the polls for the PNP saw the beginning of a distinguished Cabinet career for P. J. Patterson. His first appointment was as Minister of Industry, Foreign Trade and Tourism.

In 1978, he had a change in portfolio responsibility when he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. His training in law and his skills in human relations were now called into play as he led international negotiations, not only for his own country and countries of the region, but also for the developing countries of Africa and the Pacific, in forums the world over.

In the region, his links formed at the UWI and the LSE stood him in good stead. He was one of the principal actors in the 'evolution' of CARIFTA into CARICOM, and was Jamaica's CARICOM Minister when CARICOM was established by the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1974.

He has represented Jamaica at the following international forums:

- the Conference on Economic Co-operation, Paris (1976, 1977);