

10 February 12 - 18, 2006

B/H - Seaga, Edward

THEBESTOFPURECLASS2005

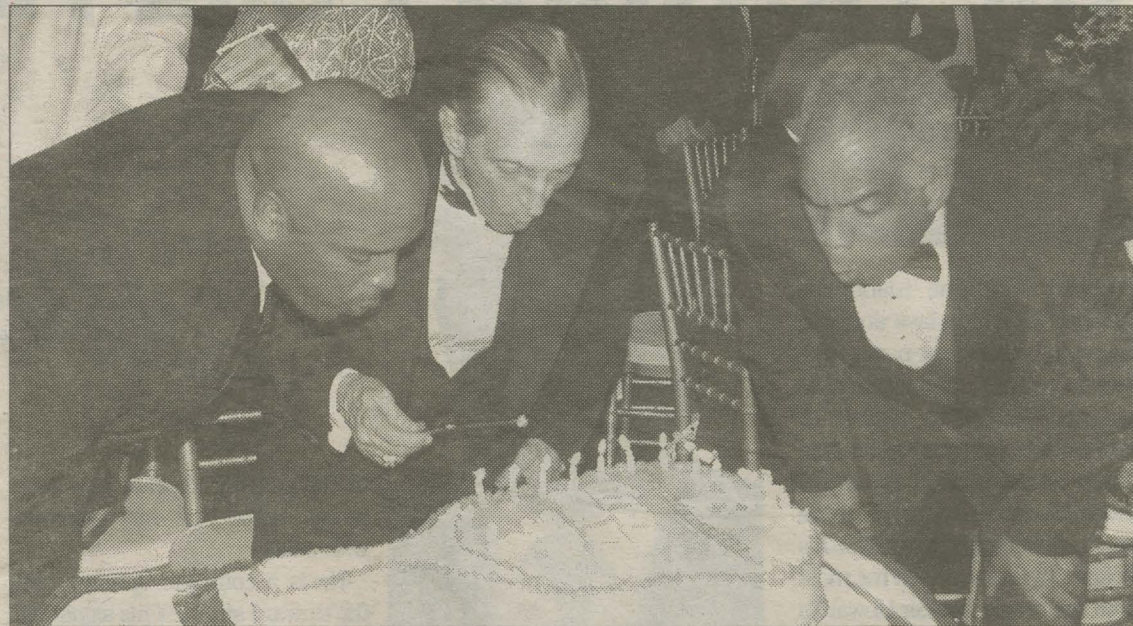
JLP honours Edward Seaga

It was an evening of reflection, warm embraces, applause and standing ovations as the Jamaica Labour Party loudly tolled its symbolic bell in recognition of the Most Hon. Edward Phillip George Seaga at a testimonial banquet held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on May 27, 2005.

The man who headed the party for three decades and devoted a total of 45 years to political life was abundantly showered with accolades on the eve of his 75th birthday.

Members of the JLP family, representatives of the ruling People's National Party, the business community, diplomats and other well-wishers were out in their numbers in the hotel's Grand Jamaica Suite to salute Mr. Seaga for his contribution to the growth of the JLP and national development.

The entrance of Mr. Seaga and his wife, Carla was met with rapturous applause. Many tributes were paid to Mr. Seaga and a video tribute took the audience through the various stages of his political career and cul-



The Most Hon Edward Seaga, his son Christopher (left) and Dr. Omar Davies blow out the candles on the birthday cake at a testimonial banquet for Mr. Seaga at the Jamaica Pegasus on May 27. All three men celebrate the same May 28 birthday.

MICHAEL SLOLEY PHOTO

minated with his present role as Distinguished Fellow at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

This complimented the display of a series of larger than life photos at the side of the suite that captured the honoured guest as a young ambitious politician, a fearless statesman, a family man and a man of the people.

In his reply, a slightly overwhelmed Mr. Seaga smilingly remarked that he was at a loss for words.

"It took 75 years for me to be speechless...I didn't expect this glorious occasion. He thanked everyone for making the evening a fulfilling one for him.

Captivating entertainment

The Jamaica Labour Party pulled out all the stops to secure a stellar line-up of performers with solid sets that captivated the audience. Veteran crooner Ken Boothe kept the hits coming. Dwight Richards and Friends stepped up to the fore to deliver trumpet-flavoured jazzy grooves and classic renditions.

Carlene Davis, Candy Isaacs, the Strachan sisters, Trudy Deans and the Tivoli Dancers had Mr Seaga expressing his delight at the range of talent on display and the clear indication that Jamaica is richly bestowed with artistic talent.

Noted musician Jimmy Cliff

expressed his admiration in a taped video message. His gift to Mr Seaga was the guitar he used to write the hit *Rebel In Me*, which was presented by fellow musical icon, Byron Lee, who also handed over a plaque of his group's 1959 *Dumplings* record, which was produced by Mr. Seaga.

Leader of the Opposition Bruce Golding presented Mr. Seaga with leather bound volumes of the *Laws of Jamaica* in a mahogany cabinet.

On the other side of midnight, one of the more memorable happenings took place when Mr.

Seaga fed Dr. Omar Davies cake and vice versa.

It appeared to be an unlikely marriage of personalities across a great public divide, but it was somewhat fitting given the fact that both men shared the same birth date. Mr. Seaga's son, Christopher, also born on May 28, was a part of the cake-feeding activity as well.

At 1 a.m. Byron Lee and the Dragonaires took control and unleashed a string of hits that initiated a dancing frenzy, ensuring that the event concluded with a bang.



The Most Hon Edward Seaga seems to be directing Zein Issa Nakash on how to use the camera while her father, the Hon, John Issa looks on. Occasion was a black-tie dinner Prime Minister P.J. Patterson hosted for Mr. Seaga at Vale Royal on March 9, 2005, which was attended by Their Excellencies Sir Howard and Lady Cooke and members of the top brass of Jamaica's political, economic and social elite.