

Seaga in unprecedented move

TAKES A FIVE

On 2 years leave from JLP

By Ewart Walters

Former Finance Minister Eddie Seaga has taken two years leave from the Jamaica Labour Party.

But he remains MP for Western Kingston, and will retain responsibility for the JLP's pronouncement on financial matters.

"I will still be involved in matters affecting the party's policy in finance," Mr. Seaga told the Daily News.

"But I will not be involved in party administration, decision-making and campaign strategy."

Asked whether he was on the verge of taking up a job anywhere, Mr. Seaga had a very positive answer.

"I am not available for any job now," he said, adding that he had a very active practice as an Investment Consultant.

Mr. Seaga said he had not resigned from the JLP. Neither had he contemplated resigning from the JLP. He had come to his decision some time ago, had informed the party retreat earlier this year, and was now making it public.

But his statement yesterday which he said was triggered by rumours that he planned to resign, tended to throw uncertainty on his future political activity.

"... I myself am having growing doubts which are not the result of the last year or two, but of the last three or four years, as to the effectiveness of the political process in Jamaica, regardless of party, and where it is leading the country," he said.

"The next couple years will not be just years of either insight or introspection. I have a full programme of work mapped out because I am heavily committed to a programme of writing."

Mr. Seaga said he considered this the best time to take that break while the JLP was in "mid-stream of Opposition" because that opportunity might not be available later.

Mr. Seaga has a 1974 deadline on a book, "Role of Culture in the Development Strategy" which he has already started writing and to which he now expects to devote more time.

In addition he is working on another book dealing with alternative forms of development strategies for countries such as Jamaica that are half way up the developmental ladder.

And he intends to begin serious work on a book on Tivoli Gardens and the concept of urban restructuring.



Edward Seaga

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