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BURRELLE'S

Seaga — believer in free enterprise

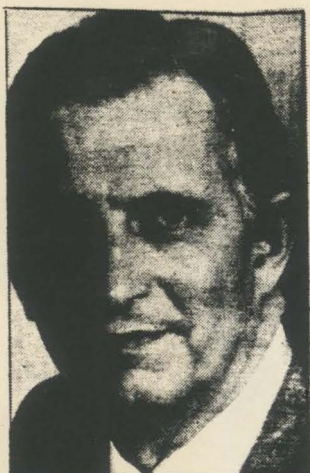
Edward P.G. Seaga became prime minister of Jamaica following the general elections of Oct. 30, 1980, when the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), which he has led since 1974, won a landslide election victory over the Incumbent Peoples National Party (PNP). The mandate of Seaga and the Jamaica Labour Party was renewed in the uncontested 1983 general elections.

Seaga's political career began in 1959 when Sir Alexander Bustamante, the founder of the JLP, nominated him to serve in the Upper House of the Jamaica Parliament, the forerunner of the island senate. His appointment at age 29 made him the youngest member in the history of the Legislative Council. Seaga also gained distinction as one of the youngest architects of the 1962 constitution which established the framework for national independence in August 1962.

Seaga was first elected in April 1962 and was appointed to the Cabinet as minister of development and welfare. He was appointed minister of finance and planning following the 1967 elections and became leader of the parliamentary opposition in 1974.

In the present government, Seaga is also minister of finance; his portfolio includes culture and information.

A strong believer in the



Edward Seaga

free enterprise system. Seaga has continued to direct Jamaica through a difficult period of fiscal austerity. In 1981, he instituted a "structural adjustment" of the economy intended to provide the nation with new sources of revenue from the tourism, manufacturing and agricultural sectors instead of depending on bauxite which has long been the island's major source of revenue.

Born May 28, 1930, Seaga received his primary and secondary education in Jamaica and graduated in 1952 from Harvard University with a bachelor of arts degree in social anthropology. In private life he has had a successful career in the field of finance.

In 1965, Seaga married Mitsy Constantine. They have two sons and a daughter.

1965 - 1999

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