

Many happy returns!

B/N - Edward Seaga

By BALFORD HENRY

THE WEST KINGSTON community paid tribute to Opposition Leader, Mr. Edward Seaga, at a party on his 59th birthday, Sunday, at the Tivoli Gardens Community Centre.

Dozens of presents from nearly every community or institution comprising the constituency were given him. There were messages, toasts, music and entertainment lasting through the night.

Highlight of the function was the presentation ceremony which was chaired by Mr. Desmond McKenzie.

Only on leave

Lady Bustamante helped Mr. Seaga cut one of the two cakes presented to him. Miss Dawn Hutchinson brought greetings from JLP-Now, the party's women's movement. Teenaged Elisha Blake read some prose in tribute to him and Mr. Bruce Golding, chairman of the JLP, spoke on behalf of the party.

Mr. Golding said that the message he wanted to give Mr. Seaga was one which was given to him by a taxi driver at the Norman Manley Airport, recently, which was: "Don't worry yourself, you've not been fired, you have been only sent on leave."

Said Mr. Golding: "I, personally, have told him to rest as much as he can, because it will not be long before he won't have the time and the opportunity to do that."

Mr. Golding said that Mr. Seaga had served his constituency faithfully and well, and that it was unfortunate that the rest of the country was not able to share that close and personal relation which he had with West Kingston.

Mr. Golding said that when he heard Prime Minister Manley referring to his Government's problem with the IMF test in March, he remembered how many tests the JLP Government had faced: "Every one was a problem and a crisis we had to face, but Seaga did not jump up on TV shouting that the kitchen was on fire; he knew it was our job to deal with the problem."

Expression of love

He is wearing well. He is young enough to lead this country again and old enough to provide the quality of leadership that the country needs. "We want you to appreciate this as a genuine expression of the love and esteem that not only the people of West Kingston, but all of us holds for you," Mr. Golding said.

Presents given to Mr. Seaga included baskets of fruits and flowers, a briefcase of cutlery, several reclining chairs, books, carvings and a dinner bell.

They came from sources such as residents of Elgin, Metcalfe, Last, Victoria, Nuttal and Nelson and several

other Streets. The Denham Town Golden Age Home, the Denham Town Health Centre, youth clubs and several individuals.

Fulfilment

In his reply, Mr. Seaga said that he had been using his time, out of office well: "I have found that I have a lot of catching up to do since I have been able to stop on the corners and do little things here and there."

"Now I am not the Prime Minister nor a Minister, but the elected representative of the people of West Kingston. This is how I came into politics 27 years ago. I cherish the relationship I have with the people of West Kingston. As I watch those whom I knew as children growing up, I see the fulfilment of my wish for them -- a better way of life."

Among those attending were Edmund Bartlett M.P., Anthony Johnson M.P., Senator Hugh Hart and Mrs. Hart, Senator Oswald Harding, Mr. Chris Bovell, Mr. Dennis Wright, Mr. Tom Tavares-Finson, Mr. Eddie Shoucair and Mr. George Abrahams.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

P.T.O.

June 4, 1989

Sun. Gleaner Mag.