

PM SEAGA IS FINANCE CHIEF

Dep. Shearer for Foreign Affairs

Jamaica's new Prime Minister, JLP Leader Edward Phillip George Seaga has announced that in the light of "the times which we face and the conditions which we face," he must assume the portfolio of Minister of Finance in the new Government.

Prime Minister Seaga who was speaking at his swearing in ceremony at King's House yesterday evening, also announced that BITU president Hugh Shearer would be appointed Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In other specific announcements, Mr. Seaga said that Governor General Florizel Glasspole would remain in that post, and that he had asked the Church to declare next week Sunday as a National Day of Prayer.

Mr. Seaga said that though it would have been desirable to immediately appoint his new Cabinet and its new Ministers, "unfortunately this cannot be done until the preliminary counts have been made final," and that some of these counts would not commence in some constituencies until tomorrow.

He expressed the belief that all the final counts would not be in until the middle of this week, "and therefore new members of the Cabinet will not occur until the latter part of next week."

Economic gap

Addressing himself to what he called "the economic facts of life," Mr. Seaga claimed that on October 29, the day before the elections, the Bank of Jamaica virtually ran out of foreign exchange and only a \$10 million loan from the Government of Iraq "put money back in the Bank of Jamaica for election day, that is sufficient to carry us through," until Wednesday.

He said the country faced an economic gap "in the order of \$155 million for the rest of the year, but yesterday his first day in office, he had taken steps to conclude arrangements to close at least a part of the gap in the near future.

The Prime Minister claimed his to be the first Government in the history of Jamaica to have taken office without funds in the Treasury to enable them to commence with the finances necessary to start life and initiate a new programme.

He said the JLP would "begin once again from scratch," as founder Sir Alexander Bustamante had done in the early years.

The Prime Minister said there was "sufficient fuel to

last us until the middle of November," and he hoped discussions with Venezuela would be concluded this week for relief supplies.

'Firm' rice

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He said food supplies were being investigated but they would not know until tomorrow how long existing food supplies and those on the waters would last.

"But we have some small relief as you know, to offer the people by delivering a small shipment of rice standing firm on the wharves."

Prime Minister Seaga said his Government would keep its election undertaking to the people of Jamaica that Cuban Ambassador Senor Ulisses Estrada must go, and that a message was even then being delivered to the Government of Cuba, calling for his withdrawal.

Mr. Seaga advised the PNP Opposition to be good and effective, because how they played their role will determine if they continue to play an effective role in the democratic system of Jamaica. He said the PNP had a choice of returning to the moderate policies by which they "achieved noteworthy successes" as a party in the past, "or to carry further the trend of the last few years which has taken them increasingly to the left and into the arms of the Marxists, Leninists and Communists."

He warned that if the PNP continued on that path of continued affiliation "with the lunatic left" they might endanger the two-party system of the country which required both an effective majority and an effective Opposition.

No room

Mr. Seaga claimed that the people had clearly voted in the last elections against Communism, Marxism "and all that is allied with those policies," and shown that there was no room for support of those extremist policies, and that the JLP victory had been a hard blow for Communist interests in the Caribbean.

He pledged the JLP, born of moderate policies, to continue to be a party of moderate policies and "interested in reforms of social, economic and cultural areas, especially those which are protective of the welfare of the disadvantaged, in order to help to bring them into the mainstream of development and the benefits of the country's economic life."

Mr. Seaga's address was also appreciative of the "electoral officials who made the system work," and the Security Forces "for doing a job under tremendous harassment", and the churches for their prayers — both silent and vocal.

The largely attended swearing-in ceremony featured Governor General Florizel Glasspole reading and presenting the Instrument of Authority and Mr. Seaga's taking the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office.

The Governor General said Mr. Seaga had won in the "most massive election ever recorded in Jamaica's history since Adult Suffrage," and that Mr. Seaga was now faced with the "back-breaking task of rebuilding the shattered economy of the country."

He said he was confident Mr. Seaga would "do his very best to heal the terrible wounds in our society."

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New Prime Minister Edward Seaga holds high the Instrument of Authority, just received from the Governor General [left] at Kings House last night.

Sun photo by Alvin Jones