

# Eddie Seaga honoured

By Gary Spaulding

**E**DWARD Seaga, leader of the Jamaica Labour Party, was yesterday honoured for "his 30 years of unbroken service to the people of West Kingston as Member of Parliament for that constituency."

West Kingston residents, some of whom had witnessed the transformation to Tivoli Gardens of the community known 30 years ago as "Back O' Wall", turned out in their thousands to shower tributes on Mr. Seaga.

From the moment Mr. Seaga, clad in a green shirt and black pants, the traditional colours of the JLP, accompanied by his mother Ena, wife Mitzie, daughter Anabelle and son Andrew, entered the Jamaica Conference Centre, thunderous applause greeted him.

The occasion was a happy and memorable one for not only the Opposition leader but for the people in the constituency which he represents.

"We are proud, because our Mem-

ber of Parliament has made us proud," and "the contribution of Edwards Seaga cannot measured anywhere in Jamaica" and "living monument" were some of the words and phrases that came from them.

Mr. Seaga was also described as a "no deal-cutter," firm, compassionate towards the poor and vulnerable, committed, a man of integrity and honesty, and one who possesses the relevant qualities to run a country.

Professor of Political Sociology at the University of the West Indies, Carl Stone, who was guest speaker at the function, was himself quite lavish in his expressions of praise.

"Over the years I have earned the wrath of the UWI pro-PNP intelligentsia in the Social Science Department for consistently displaying an

admiration for Eddie Seaga and the contribution he has brought to political life," he declared.

## Not pleased

Dr. Stone said the last time he exercised his judgement of a major political leader in relation to former Prime Minister Michael Manley, Mr. Manley and those close to him were not pleased.

This, Dr. Stone said, was because he called "a spade a spade and carefully and objectively looked at his weaknesses and strengths and concluded that he did more damage than good in his long political career."

Turning his focus on Mr. Seaga, he said he was not an easy leader to assess because his contribution ranged over such a wide area.

"I don't think there is any other leader in the post-war Caribbean who has built and left as monument for posterity so many institutions and so many new beginnings and so many ideas in the sphere of public management," he said.

These he listed as a number of financial institutions, the Urban Development Corporation, Heart, Solidarity, a number of institutions in the world of culture, welfare programmes, investment promotion, regionalism and export-led economic development, public sanitation and community development.

"While other leaders wrote books and made pretty speeches, the man Seaga devoted his energies and creative ability in giving birth to institutions, policies, programmes and ideas that made a difference in Jamaica. It is simply amazing how he finds time to get so much done."

Tributes also came from Jamaica Labour Party chairman Bruce Golding who painted verbal pictures of "Seaga, the man, the party leader and Prime Minister"; and from the President-General of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU), Hugh Shearer, who praised Mr. Seaga's prowess at good financial management.

Mr. Shearer also used the opportunity to lash out at some of the present Government's policies which he said were wreaking havoc on the poor.

Mr. Seaga, in response, expressed thanks for the outpouring of love and related some his experiences which marked his success in West Kingston.

His wife, Mitzie, and their children also expressed their thanks.

"We thank you for the support that you have given to Eddie. When the world turned its back on him, you stood up in support for him," Mrs. Seaga said.

Their other son, Christopher was said to be away at school.

P. 70





—Michael Forest Photo

**SHARING AN INTIMATE MOMENT:** Opposition leader Edward Seaga and wife Mitzie are all smiles as they share a moment at the Jamaica Conference Centre yesterday. Occasion was a function

honouring Mr. Seaga for 30 years of unbroken service to the West Kingston constituency.