

The Sunday Observer, July 6, 2008, p. 3.

JLP, BITU remember Hugh Shearer

Representatives of the governing Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) met at the union's head office, Duke Street, Kingston yesterday to remember the union's late president and former Jamaica prime minister Hugh Shearer.

"We have assigned to ourselves that whatever happens, the dream and the burning passion that Hugh Shearer had, especially for the poor, must never die," said former president of the BITU, Ruddy Spencer, who now represents Shearer's South East Clarendon constituency in Parliament.

Sharing in the event also was the newly elected president of the union, Kavan Gayle, who recalled Shearer as a "man of great distinction and distinguished honour".

"He invested considerable time in nurturing the next generation and many of the current leaders in the trade union movement are beneficiaries of his mentorship," said Gayle. "We can say with all sincerity that he spent all of his life ensuring to move this nation and its citizens towards a better future."

Also speaking at the function



Dr Denise Eldemire Shearer, widow of former prime minister and president of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) Hugh Shearer, places a vase with flowers in front of a picture of her husband during yesterday's remembrance at the BITU's head office, Duke Street, Kingston.

was president of the Senate, Oswald Harding, representing the JLP. Senator Harding said that Shearer was always loyal to the party, and its leadership was always beholden to him.

"He always reminded the party of the importance of the workers and, to most of us, he was a friend, a colleague and a mentor," Harding said.

Attorney-General and minister of justice, Senator Dorothy Lightbourne, recalled meeting Shearer in London during her law studies and reflected his business-like approach to matters.

Also attending were Dr Denise Eldemire Shearer, the late prime minister and trade union leader's widow; officers of the union, including general-secretary, George Fyffe and senior vice-president Wesley Nelson; and Jamaica Confederation of Trade Union (JCTU) officers Veronica Thompson and Keith Comrie.

Hugh Lawson Shearer, who served as prime minister between 1967 and 1972, and succeeded the late national hero, Sir Alexander Bustamante as president of the BITU, died on July 5, 2004.

BITU SHEARER REMEMBRANCE