

Prime ministers should be given O.N. - Seaga

Former Prime Minister, Edward Seaga, yesterday called for the conferring of the Order of the Nation on all those who have served the country as prime minister.

The Opposition Jamaica Labour Party leader suggested that the first recipient should be Hugh Shearer, O.J., who served as prime minister between 1968 - 1972. Seaga said Shearer's 35 years of unbroken service in



Hugh Shearer

Jamaican politics is one of the longest records of service in Parliament both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. He also praised Shearer for his role in trade unionism, dubbing him the number one in the entire Caribbean.

Seaga did not say whether it

would be Michael Manley, Donald Sangster or himself who would be next in line for the Order of the Nation which presently is only conferred on Governor Generals.

Presently, honours are given by the Governor General based on recommendations and "no prime minister wants to recommend himself, Seaga said."

He stated, however, that those prime ministers who have the highest honour of the nation, that of National Hero would be excluded. This would affect two of our national heroes, Sir Alexander Bustamante, and Norman Manley.

Seaga said he has had discussions with Prime Minister, Michael Manley and the present Cabinet on this.