

SIR HAROLD

ALLAN IS DEAD

Leading legislator, 58, fails to rally

FUNERAL SET FOR SUNDAY IN CITY

THE HON. SIR HAROLD ALLAN, Kt., O.B.E., died at the Nuttall Memorial Hospital yesterday morning at 11 o'clock. He was 58. The Minister for Finance and General Purposes and Leader of the House of Representatives suffered a stroke while at the Bath of St. Thomas on Sunday morning and fell into a semi-coma from which he never recovered.

News of his death, fears of which had been entertained since his sudden illness, was received with shock and regret throughout Government and political circles, as well as in Portland, his native parish, which he had represented in the Legislature since 1935.

Jamaica's most outstanding statesman, politician and legislator, Sir Harold was also a businessman, a planter and a sportsman, and thereby connected with every phase of activity in the community.

Messages of condolence began pouring in to Nuttall Hospital and his residence, 16, Waterloo Road, St. Andrew, shortly after his passing had become known. A large number of persons attended personally at the hospital to express their sympathy to Lady Allan, and show respect to the dead statesman.

Sir Harold was reported in reasonably good health up to Thursday when he went to the St. Thomas Bath, accompanied by Lady Allan, for a week-end rest stay. He was stricken on Sunday morning and brought over to Kingston, where he was admitted into the Nuttall Hospital.

Despite constant medical care his condition remained unchanged. On Tuesday night, his doctor, Dr. H. L. Whitelocke had consultations with Dr. G. F. Baxter and Professor Cruickshank, of the University College Pathological Department.

Yesterday morning he was again visited by Dr. Whitelocke and Dr. Baxter. His condition became more serious.

At 11 o'clock, with Lady Allan, Mrs. L. Fletcher, Matron of the Nuttall, Miss R. Simms, Assistant Matron, and three nurses in the sick room, he died. Dr. Whitelocke was on his way to the hospital at the time to pay Sir Harold another visit.

During his illness there had been constant inquiries at the hospital about his health by Government, political and community leaders. The Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, K.C.M.G., was in constant touch with the Matron of the Hospital while Lady Foot visited Nuttall on Tuesday night and again yesterday morning.

Visitors yesterday morning also included Mr. Norman Manley, Q.C., leader of the PNP, who with Mr. Wills O. Isaacs, a vice-president, had called at the hospital on Tuesday to express personally to Lady Allan their sympathy and their wishes for his recovery.

Other visitors were: the Hon. Alexander Bustamante, who called Tuesday night and again yesterday morning; the Hon. Donald Sangster, and the Hon. F. V. Grossett, Custos of Portland.

Body will lie in state

His funeral has been arranged for Sunday. The service will be held in the Church of St. Margaret's, Hope Road, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Before that, the body will lie in state in the church from 1 p.m. He will be buried in the Corporate Area. A further announcement is to be made as to the place of interment.

Sir Harold is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1941, and sisters and other relatives in the United States. There are no children of his marriage.

Although not an old man, Sir Harold was not a well man. The strain of continuous public life for over 26 years had impaired his health, and he had a previous seizure three years ago which kept him out of public life for a few months.

He has been a member of the Legislature continuously since 1935, and of the Executive Council since 1945. Before that he was a member of the Privy Council (1942 to 1945).

He served on numerous boards, commissions, and committees and has represented Jamaica and the British West Indies in several capacities overseas and here at home. More recently he was chairman of the Committee arranging the Coronation Celebrations to take place this year.

Sir Harold had been selected also to attend the Coronation with Mr. Bustamante and the Hon. Col. A. G. Curphey, C.B.E., M.C., this June and was booked to sail from Jamaica on May 1, in the s/s *Golfito*.

His death has created several problems for the Government and the political life of the island. He was due to take charge of the Finance Ministry in May. He was chairman of the Committee now drafting a self-governing Constitution for Jamaica.

An important member of the Government in connection with the drafting of the 1953-54 Budget, his death has left a major gap in this sphere. It has also created a vacancy in the East Portland constituency which Sir Harold represented as an Independent, and a by-election will have to be ordered in the next few weeks.

Jamaica Labour Party circles, in which he was closely identified during the last nine years, indicated yesterday that Sir Harold's death will lead to a complete re-casting of the elected Executive, both now and in connection with the establishment of responsible Ministries in the next three months.

"The loss to the country is immense. The loss to his Portland is much greater."

Mr. Bustamante spoke in sad tones when interviewed at his Tucker Avenue residence. Reluctant at first to make any further comment, he said slowly: "It has been a terrific blow to tens of thousands."

"The blow to his wife and relatives is inexpressible. She was with him at Bath. She saw when it happened and she knew how it happened, and she was with him to the last. I was along with her at Nuttall up to 2 o'clock this morning when she was covered over with a blanket sitting on a chair on the verandah, cold as it was."

"His will be a state funeral by the Government. That is how well he is thought of by the Government. I do not care to say anything more at this juncture."

'GRIEVED'

Mr. N. W. Manley, Q.C., leader of the People's National Party, paid the following tribute:

"I am grieved and saddened at Sir Harold Allan's death. I was at the Nuttall Hospital this morning (Wednesday) and had learnt that he had taken a turn for the worse but still I had hoped that he might pull through."

"It was only last week that I had had a long talk with him about the Federation Conference and the prospects of our early achievement of Self-Government. He was in his quiet way a robust and sturdy believer in our political progress. There are few who knew how vital a part he played in 1943 in getting the Constitutional proposals to go forward; and he was determined to champion the further

forward movement that we have in mind today.

"He has served Jamaica in many ways and for many causes over many long and difficult years. We will miss him in the House where his urbanity, his constant steadiness and his freedom from the excesses of party spirit enabled him to make a major contribution to the orderly development of our young Parliament."

"He has not lived to see his fondest dream come true but we honour him for a life of service, and for his inner devotion to the highest aspirations of Jamaica."

"I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and relatives and personal friends whose grief has been added to by the manner and the occasion of his sudden illness which has ended, in this tragic way."

David Steiner Feb. 19, 1953

A public life of ability, courage, devotion to duty

Gleaner Parliamentary Reporter

FEW MEN in Jamaica have had so crowded a public life as Sir Harold Allan. By ability, by courage and devotion to duty he kept himself in the forefront of Jamaican affairs and honours were heaped upon him from all sides.

To him the most important of these was the fact that the people of Portland had kept him in the legislature as their representative from the time he won his seat in 1935, right through to the end of the old Legislative Council, and with the introduction of Universal Adult Suffrage in 1944, in two successive elections to the House of Representatives.

To Sir Harold, that was as great an honour as the accolade of Knighthood which he received from the late King George VI. in 1948; for it was to him an indication that his services to his people had been appreciated, as he was wont to express himself privately, to "those who mattered most".

Jamaica's foremost statesman and legislator, Sir Harold Allan served his country, and in a lesser degree the British Caribbean, as an educator, politician and legislator. He was active in so many fields that his name was known in every home in Jamaica.

HIS INFLUENCE

All aspects of public life in the island knew him and were conditioned by his influence—the teaching profession, the parochial boards, the legislature, the farming community, social welfare, labour industry and commerce, the Government. He was a leader who led by the soft voice of diplomacy, and who did more than any other politician in Jamaica to create an atmosphere of political stability in which the advanced Constitution could operate.

Sir Harold took an active part in the bringing about of a new Constitution for Jamaica in 1944, and it was due to him that unanimity was achieved among the divergent factors of the political life of the country which was vitally necessary to pressing the country's request for a new Constitution.

More recently, it was his wise counsel and unflurried approach which he re-created his role in 1944, which brought about agreement between the political parties in the House of Representatives, and led to the granting of further advances in the Constitution scheduled to come into effect on May this year.

He was to have been Jamaica's first responsible Minister of Finance, a title that he had held by courtesy since 1945.

Harold Egbert Allan was born at Spring Bank in Portland, on March

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Gloom over Portland

PORT ANTONIO, Pd., February 18 (From our Special Correspondent) It is afternoon in Port Antonio. Flags are flying at half mast at the Town Square in front of the Post Office, at the United Fruit Company's premises, and at other places in sign of sorrow at the loss today of Portland's great son, the Hon. Sir Harold Allan, Kt., O.B.E.

There is sadness and gloom in the hearts of most of the people of this community.

The following are typical expressions of this widely felt loss:

The Custos of Portland who had just returned from Sir Harold's death bed said "I feel a sad loss to his sorrowing widow and friends and a devastating loss to the Island, particularly at this time of Constitutional change."

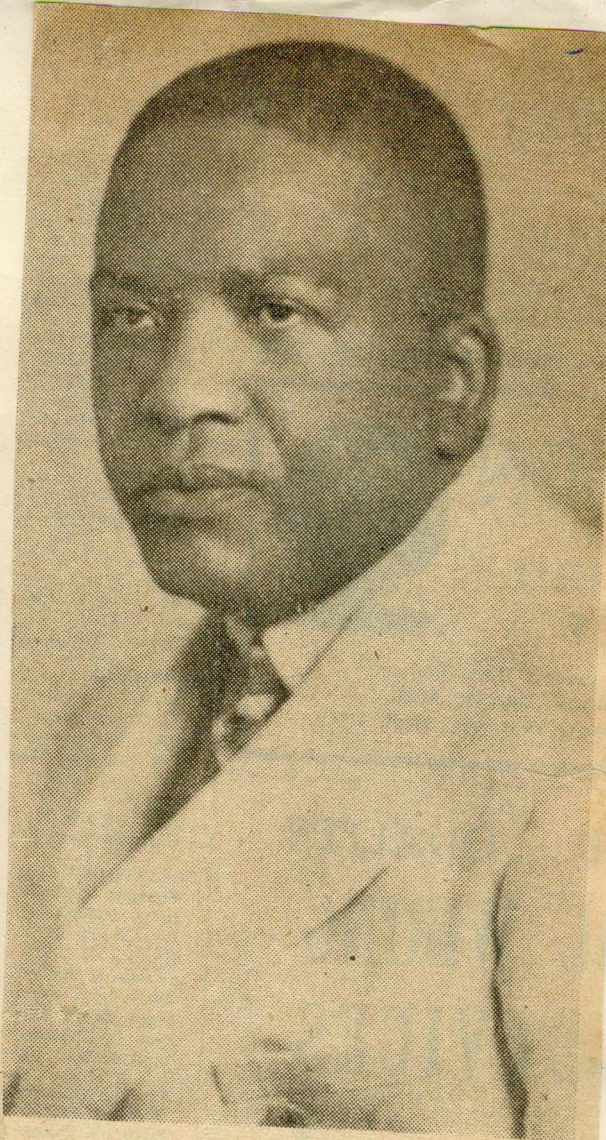
From Mr. L. L. Nunes, acting Secretary of the Parochial Board: "His loss will of course be particularly acutely felt in Government circles and especially in the field of local Government. His work as a Member of the House and as Minister for Finance is known to every one in the Island and to a very considerable audience outside of it.

"His considerable achievements for local Government are perhaps less well known. Only one of these need be mentioned to show his worth—his establishment of the Association of Parochial Boards. This Association is of inestimable value to our local authorities.

"This is his own creation, and will be his enduring monument. Bearing in mind the role he has played in the past, his death now when we are on the threshold of further Constitutional changes is singularly unfortunate. All our sympathy goes out to Lady Allan in her bereavement and distress."

I stopped a labourer who gave his name as L. Gordon. "God has taken him to get rest, for his weary body," he said.

Mr. Vernon Hylton, president of the Port Antonio Citizens Association, and Chairman of the Jamaica Prosperity Society, said "It is a great loss to the parish of one of Portland's noblest sons. His place will never be filled."



SIR HAROLD ALLAN

And Jane Gray, a poor woman on the street, said: "Since I heard the news I have not eaten. My heart is too full with sorrow."

Mr. George Evans paid the following tribute: "As a Portlander I was exalted because Sir Harold exalted me when he rose to the heights, He exalted each and every Portlander."

I met Mr. C. M. Robinson on the road. He is Headmaster of the Port Antonio School. He said: "Sir Harold was a friend of the children. He was a friend of all. His memory will live forever."

Mr. L. A. Brown, Agent of the United Fruit Company, said: "I can't realise that the parish has lost Sir Harold. No one can fill his place."

And so it went on—the many sad commentaries on the passing of Sir Harold Allan, beloved and respected son of Portland, who had worn himself out in our service.

From Page One

15, 1895, the son of Patrick Kerr Allan, educator, and Charlotte Elizabeth Pearce, his wife. He was educated at the Calabar Elementary School, at Mico College and by private tuition. He became assistant Master at Calabar, headmaster and manual instructor at Titchfield Upper School. Early in the field of public service, he organised the first All-Island Parish Cricket Competition, the Allan Football Cup Competition.

When he left the schoolroom, Sir Harold became an auctioneer, and then in 1919, he introduced motion pictures to Portland, establishing the Capitol Theatre in which he retained interest until the end. In 1924, he established the Local Burial and Benefit Society in Portland, and in 1926 he was elected a member of the Portland Parochial Board.

That was the beginning of his political career. From then until his death yesterday, he was in continuous service of the people of Jamaica.

He signalled his entry into the wider field of public service in 1928, when he founded and became the secretary of the Association of Parochial Boards, a post he retained until his death.

In 1935, after one previous effort, Sir Harold entered the Legislative Council. He beat Mr. K. V. Abendana in the general election for the legislative seat for the parish of Portland. That same year he founded the Elected Members Association and became its secretary, a position he occupied until 1944.

From the beginning of his legislative career he was a foremost member. His contributions to debates in the Council were looked forward to, almost always acted on.

In 1938, following the unemployment riots, he was appointed along with Sir Henry Brown and Sir Charles Doorly to investigate the disturbances at Frome.

HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

Later that same year he visited England at his own expense and on his own initiative represented to the Colonial Office the unsatisfactory living conditions in Jamaica—low wages, abominable housing conditions, the lack of employment, the need for more schools and hospitals, the urgent need for industries to take care particularly of the middle classes were among the points in his memorandum prepared and submitted to the Colonial Office in Downing Street.

His successful agitation in England for a cornmeal factory and a condensery for Jamaica were highlights of that interview at the Colonial Office. This has been placed on record.

Sir Harold also visited Bermuda on his own in 1938 and brought back with him the Non-Residents Business Law. As a result of his investigations in this direction and his motion in the Legislative Council, the Emigration Laws of Jamaica were revised.

In 1939, in the aftermath of the labour disturbances, Sir Harold was a strong influence in the establishment of the Land Settlement system and the Unemployment Relief and Rehabilitation Centre in the West-end of Kingston. Thereafter followed the Royal Commission and the constitutional talks, in which he played so important a part.

In 1944, in the closing years of the old Crown Colony status, Sir Harold was sent by the Government to Barbados to represent Jamaica at the Anglo-American Commission. It was the first conference of its kind and set the pattern which has

developed over the years into the Caribbean Commission, now an integral part of the life of this region.

Later in 1944, he was elected to the first House of Representatives under a new Constitution, as member for Eastern Portland. The man who had been a Privy Councillor (1942-44) was one of the four M.L.C.s who were returned by Universal Suffrage to continue his service in another capacity.

MINISTER OF STATE

Although an Independent in politics, Sir Harold's worth and ability were recognised by the Hon. Alexander Bustamante. With 23 Jamaica Labour Party members returned to the House, Mr. Bustamante nevertheless, selected Sir Harold as his first lieutenant in the Government and his Minister for Finance and General Purposes, a office into which he entered in 1945.

In addition, he was named Leader of the House, a position of leadership to which he was eminently suited by the universal respect in which he was held in the House.

He presented the first People's Budget in 1945 and acquitted himself with credit. He was to go on to even greater things, when in 1947 he was appointed Jamaica's representative to the Trade Conference in London and Geneva and was appointed chairman of the West Indian Delegation. Later that same year he was appointed British West Indian Adviser to the British Delegation at the Havana Conference on Trade and Employment.

The following letter, as a result of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in appreciation of his services, was sent to him:

"The Secretariat,
"Jamaica, B.W.I.,
"20th May, 1948.

"Sir— I am directed by the acting Governor to inform you that notification has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the Official Leader of the United Kingdom Delegation to the World Trade Conference at Havana has paid tribute to the considerable benefit which the Delegation received from your collaboration during the Conference. The Secretary of State has asked that an expression of his thanks for your valuable services on this occasion may be conveyed to you.

"I am, Sir,
"Your Obedient Servant,
"(Sgd.) H. R. F. Browne,
"Acting Colonial Secretary."

Those in the know, behind the scenes, realised that Harold Allan, with characteristic ability, had worked strenuously and successfully at these Conferences—London, Geneva and Havana—to safeguard the future of Jamaica's banana and sugar sales to the United Kingdom—work which was not publicised but which nevertheless had been of inestimable benefit to the future economic stability of the island.

MONUMENTAL

His contributions to Jamaica's public life have always been monumental. There are Government departments functioning in Jamaica today for the betterment of the social and economic life of the people which owe their existence largely to the efforts of this outstanding legislator.

Among them are the Lands Department, the Central Housing Authority, the Marketing Department. As originator of the motion for the creation of the Unemployment Commission in 1938, he led the way for the creation of the Labour Department.

In medicine, he contributed to the institution of the Venereal Disease scheme and the construction of clinics throughout the island, and in many other ways has his name become connected with calm progress in Jamaica.

In the larger field of Caribbean affairs, he put forward at an early date the need for a British West Indies Trade Commissioner Service in the United Kingdom and Canada, and actually recommended the setting up of a Regional Economic Committee long before the 1947 Montego Bay Conference made it one of their recommendations.

He has served on numerous Government Boards in many capacities and at the time of his death was chairman of the Central Coronation Committee. One of the last big committees which he headed was the Committee which revised the Customs Tariff of Jamaica.

Highlight of his career was the conferring of a knighthood on him by the late King in the Birthday Honours of June, 1948, in recognition of his long years of public service to the people of Jamaica and the Commonwealth. In July of that year, he went to England and received the accolade of knighthood from the King at Buckingham Palace.

Despite the fact that he suffered a similar seizure three years ago, Sir Harold was generally expected by the entire Jamaica to remain for many more years in public service. He was looked forward to as a mainstay in the new system of Ministerial Government which is to be introduced here in the next three months.

Death has ended a distinguished career.

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