

B/N

ALLEN, EDWIN

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Editor, Sir
Jamaica's first Minister of Education since Independence, Mr. Edwin Allen should not be left out of our educational achievements but instead his courageous dedication and re-construction should be regarded as a landmark in Jamaica's educational policy.

The former Minister, who still holds his N.W. Clarendon seat, did not find it an easy job taking education to its present position. There was always the need for modernization in the system and it was his best that alleviated the problems. The formation of the Comprehensive and Junior Secondary Schools was due to his planning team. He had to face the problems of over-crowding. The building of new schools, and the proper maintenance of the existing ones.

The Junior Secondary Schools should reward him with much credit, seeing the effective way in which these newly formed schools fulfil their purpose in society, and too, we should not detract from the performance of the Comprehensive Schools as the demand for that type of education and the skills that can be produced is a benefit to our country.

Mr. Allen can proudly say he has laid the foundation. He had more work to look over than any other minister, past and present. No matter which Government might rule he should come in for a lot of recognition.

He showed that he is the same when it comes to better education when he was the first to publicly receive the Prime Minister's announcement for free education. It was an announcement that gave the Government some of its lost prestige and so far is received by the majority. It is best to honour a man when he is alive. His work is too much to mention and for him to be left out of the limelight. It is Mr. Allen's work in the past that will take us to the future. How should we forget him when there is always something to remind us.

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28 JUN 1973