



opportunity to meet many old friends and acquaintances such as Lord Caradon, the former Sir Hugh Foot, who served as Governor of Jamaica from 1951 until November, 1957, when Jamaica achieved full internal self-government.

The Westminster Abbey service was, however, much more than another occasion planned in honour of Sir Alexander. Well attended as it was by more than 2,000 well-wishers, the service reinforced the "great faith" which Lady Bustamante has in the "patriotism of my Jamaicans."

Although "very happy" to see so many Jamaicans come to the thanksgiving service, Lady Bustamante was not entirely surprised by the large attendance. Many factors and attitudes have changed over the years, but Sir Alexander's widow maintains that today, just as in the 1960s, "anywhere you call Busta's name people come from far and near."

New purpose in Brixton

The West Indian community in Britain has grown considerably since the first visit Lady Bustamante made to the U.K. with Sir Alexander in 1948, and there have been several developments in West Indian community life since her last visit.



by Shelley Lambie

SOME PEOPLE SAY that the "fervent Jamaican nationalism of the 1960s" has receded forever into the corridors of time.

Yet the Hon. Lady Bustamante, O.J., who worked tirelessly alongside her husband, the late Sir Alexander, to make fair play at the workplace, adult suffrage, and nationhood a reality, entertains no such pessimism.

As Jamaica celebrates its 21st anniversary of Independence and we express-mixed feelings about the post-Independence experience, one soft but resolute voice stands out to insist that "wherever we go, Jamaicans remain basically loyal to Jamaica." The voice is that of Lady Bustamante, the sixty-eight year old widow of the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante, National Hero, Founder of the JLP and BITU and first Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Speaking to the *Gleaner* recently at her home "Belencita" in Irish Town, St. Andrew about Sir Alexander's contribution to national life and progress and problems in post-Independence Jamaica, Lady Bustamante elaborated about "this great faith have in my Jamaicans."

Six years after the death of her husband, Lady Bustamante still feels most comfortable sitting on her cool back verandah in Sir Alexander's favourite green armchair, still speaks spontaneously and freely about the trials, achievements, joys and disappointments which she experienced with the National Hero.

Busta's tribute

Sir Alexander himself left a testament to her loyalty in this tribute to women: "My belief is this, a woman is above everything else

in life except God. Men are cowards where trouble is concerned but a good woman can instil in the man courage and the feeling to go onward. It is a woman who helped to make me."

Moreover, Lady Bustamante's contribution to national life was officially recognized in February, 1982, when she accepted the Order of Jamaica for "service to the trade union movement and the Jamaican public."

In May, the Joint Trade Unions Research Development Centre honoured Lady Bustamante for the support which she had given to Sir Alexander in his trade union work, along with four other trade unionists.

Therefore it is not surprising that today, more than 40 years after the 1938 workers' uprising, Lady Bustamante recalls in almost minute detail the incidents which preceded this all-island strike, and relates "how the sugar workers (of Hanover) came to Busta at his loan office and asked him to lead them because he was the only one brave enough to stand up to the estate owners and the colonial Government."

She was "very happy" to join with hundreds of Jamaica Labour Party stalwarts and other Jamaicans in the historic Westminster Abbey on May 28, for a grand thanksgiving service commemorating the 45th anniversary of Sir Alexander's release from detention.

This event and others which were organized by the Bustamante Foundation in commemoration of the anniversary gave her an

