

- 7 APR 1974

J.D.N

The youngest M.P.

Bruce Golding is a new breed of politician on the Jamaican political scene. At 26 he is the youngest member in the House of Representatives.

The son of a former JLP veteran member of the House he is educated and articulate. He attended St. George's College and later graduated from Jamaica College with A-Levels.

Mr. Golding then went to the University of the West Indies where he did a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics majoring in public administration.

Brought up in politics he



says: "I was two years old when father ran his first election. I have always been close to him and have travelled with him from I was about nine.

"When I was 13 I attended my first political meeting. Father tried to influence me against going into politics on the ground that it was hectic but I think he hoped I would not take his advice."

He recalls that the PNP made overtures to him while he was at the University but that it was a natural sequence for him to follow his father into the Jamaica Labour Party.

It was in 1967 that Mr. Golding began political campaigning on behalf of his father Tacius. He was elect-

ed vice-chairman of the West St. Catherine constituency before he was 21 years old.

"Shortly after the 1967 elections I decided to contest the next general elections. This was as a result of the response I was getting from the people."

Asked what was the motivating factor Mr. Golding says: "I felt there was a need for a new type of politics and a new type of politician. There was a need for people with modern education and Parliament needed to be coloured by young people."

At that time he recalled that he felt the Government was getting out of touch with the people and in any event the philosophy of the Government needed to be changed.

But underlying all this was the need to perform the type of service his constituents needed.

"Up to 1962 we had never attracted into active politics the people from the professions. In 1962 there was some change and 1967 brought some improvements; but it was in 1972 that the breakthrough came. The electorate is now demanding a higher level of representation," Mr. Golding says.

To live up to this higher level of representation Mr. Golding spends Sundays travelling his constituency while Saturday is spent in the constituency office at Old Harbour.

"The informal type visit in the constituency is far more effective than warning the people before hand that you are coming.

"Yes, I have a personal attachment to this constituency. I was born here and I grew up here plus the fact that the response and support of the people make me feel obligated."