

# ABRAHAM'S QUITS

The Star

**MR. ANTHONY Abrahams, the Minister of Tourism, has resigned, becoming the second member of the Seaga Cabinet to quit since Friday when Dr. Ronald Irvine announced his resignation as Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment.**

The STAR understands that the controversial Mr. Abrahams, 44, handed in his resignation at King's House to Governor-General Sir Florizel Glasspole on Saturday morning.

Mr. Abrahams had been Minister of Tourism since November 1980.

Before that he had served as Director of Tourism and as a director of several companies.

He was at one time the Minister responsible for Information, but that portfolio responsibility was recently taken from him by Prime Minister Seaga.

The STAR could not ascertain the reasons, if any, Mr. Abrahams gave for his resignation.

When Dr. Irvine resigned on Friday, he said he wanted to devote more time to his family and to his personal affairs.

Reports of the resignation of Mr. Abrahams had been spiralling since Friday. Friday night Mr. Abrahams denied that he had resigned, or that he had been asked to resign.

Mr. Abrahams has been at the centre of a storm in the news media in recent months, first with the sacking of his Director of Tourism, Mr. John Gentles. Mr. Abrahams

later revoked the appointment of Mr. Gentles, who has since sued for wrongful dismissal.

## MARTIN'S ISSUE

Then there was the Martin's issue which surfaced after the STAR carried a news report on April 27 that the once bouyant Martin's Jamaica Ltd. travel agency, now government-owned, had been declared in default by the International Air Transport Association and a subsequent report in the Gleaner that several Ministries of Government owed Martin's more than \$2 million.

Mr. Abrahams later appointed Mr. Ferdie Martin, who founded the company, to probe discrepancies in the accounts of Martin's.

But it was as Minister of Information that Mr. Abrahams was most controversial. In May 1983 he fired the board of the JBC and was later reported to have said that the corporation was functioning better without a board.

Some persons have been tying the two Cabinet resignations to Prime Minister Edward Seaga's warning on Wednesday that his Government would be taking tough decisions in the next six weeks, that would indicate its determination to maintain discipline at all levels in the society.

The STAR understands however, that if the Prime Minister's remarks were aimed at his Cabinet, the targets were probably two Ministers who went to Belize to shoot bird recently without either his knowledge or his permission.