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Percival Noel James Patterson was born in St. Andrew on the 10th April, 1935. His father, Henry, now deceased, was a farmer and his mother, Ina Mirianne nee James (now retired) a teacher. He gained his early education at the Somerton Government School, which he attended between 1943 and 1947. After leaving Somerton he entered Calabar High School on a Purscell Trust Scholarship. While at Calabar, Mr. Patterson represented the school in table tennis, and debating, was editor of the school magazine and was President of the 6th Form Association for 1952-1953. He graduated from Calabar in 1953, having obtained the Cambridge 'O' level Certificate - Grade 1 and the Cambridge 'A' level with two distinctions. He then served briefly on the teaching staff of Cornwall College.

Mr. Patterson entered the University of the West Indies in the following year, 1954. His University career was marked not only by academic distinction (he graduated in 1958 with a B.A. Honours degree in English) but also by a record of full involvement in student affairs and activities.

He served as Chairman of an External Affairs Commission and represented the Guild of Under-graduates at International Conferences in Ceylon (1956) and Nigeria (1957). He also served on the Executive of an International Students' Conference and was a member of the team which visited Nicaragua in 1957, to investigate the freedom of students.

After graduating in 1958, Mr. Patterson spent some time on the teaching staff of Munro College, and later of Jamaica College. In 1960 he left Jamaica for England where he entered the London School of Economics.

During his studies there, he was awarded the Hughes Parry Prize for excellence in Law of Contract and won a Leverhulme Scholarship to read for his law degree. He graduated from the London

School of Economics in 1963 with the . (Hons) degree.

In November, 1963, Mr. Patterson was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple and was admitted to the Jamaican Bar in December of the same year.

He has since been in private practice as an Attorney-at-Law. Mr. Patterson's political involvement began in 1959 when he was appointed as Organizer for the People's National Party in St. Elizabeth. On his return from completing studies at the Bar, he was in 1964 elected to the Executive Committee of the Party. In 1967 he was appointed to the Senate and later became Leader of the Opposition in that House.

In 1969, ~~Mr~~ Patterson was elected to the office of Vice-President of the P.N.P. and in the following year, was elected to fill a vacant seat in South-East Westmoreland. As a Member of Parliament, Mr. Patterson served as a member of the Opposition Front Bench and the Shadow Cabinet.

In March, 1972 Mr. Patterson was named by the Prime Minister the Hon. Michael Manley, as a member of the Cabinet of the newly elected Government. He was assigned the Portfolio for Industry and Tourism.

He is a Baptist by religion, and his hobbies are sport, music and literature. A divorcee, Mr. Patterson is the father of two children - Robert and Sharon.

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