

PNP not getting drug money — PJ

MR. P.J. Patterson, Chairman of the People's National Party, has denied allegations made in a CBS television programme, that the party was receiving drug money.

In the programme, which was aired here twice this week on JBC-TV, it was alleged that the PNP was receiving large sums of money from persons who were influential in the drug trade.

Mr. Patterson spoke to the **Gleaner** after a fund-raising luncheon for the constituency of St. Andrew South-East at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston.

He said that last year, at the annual conference of the PNP, a man approached the platform of the conference floor and made a donation which turned out to be approximately J\$100,000.

From investigations, Mr. Patterson said, it was gleaned that a party and dance had been held in Miami and the money represented part of the proceeds collected and which was donated to the People's National Party to support its election campaign.

According to Mr. Patterson, every year, at the public session of the conference, people were invited to contribute to the party. However there was no way of knowing in advance who will be contributing to the fund, he said.

Mr. Patterson had earlier told the luncheon: "It is for us a source of overwhelming concern that the 'posses' and 'yardies' have damaged the reputation of our country abroad. We ask, however, that the thousands of decent, law-abiding citizens in the U.S.A., Canada and the United Kingdom should not be

subject to a general madia smear."

Replying to statements made recently by Mr. Bruce Golding, chairman of the Jamaica Labour Party, Mr. Patterson said that as the elections drew nearer, it was clear that Mr. Golding was searching for a platform on which the JLP could

fight the elections.

He said the "vulgar attack" on the health of Mr. Michael Manley had been roundly condemned by all well-thinking Jamaicans.

During the election campaign there were certain things which the public was entitled to know about,

Mr. Patterson said.

"Why, despite the billions of dollars available to this Government from borrowing, begging and taxing, are our social services now operating at an all time low?

"When will the Government start to build the 12,000 houses per year for which, according to the Prime Minister, in 1981, \$510 million of mortgage funds had already been identified?

"When will we learn the true details of the Marc Rich contract and receive proper explanations for the \$35 million lost by BATCO between 1983-85?"

Mr. Patterson asked, when would Jamaica learn who got the US\$18 million spent in one year for lobbying and public relations in the US, and how soon could the country expect the Ministry of Tourism to disclose the results of its investigations on the kickbacks.

He said that some 48 years ago the party had committed itself to the ideals of Democratic Socialism and was proud of it.

Mr. Patterson said the PNP had looked at its performance in the 1970s with meticulous care and taken stock of where it succeeded and why, as well as where it failed and why.

"Our principles remain immutable. Our commitment to democracy, the rule of law, national self-reliance and social justice for all, is unshakeable."

However, he said, the PNP was always prepared in the light of experience and within the context of the prevailing international conditions, to examine the methods by which objectives were best achieved.