

B/N - P. J. PATTERSON

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PJ hailed for 30 years in politics

THIRTY YEARS of political life by Mr. P.J. Patterson, the present Chairman of the People's National Party, were celebrated on Friday night at a \$1,000-a-plate dinner organised by the Friends of South-East Westmoreland.

Tributes were paid to his political life which began in 1957 when he was a student representative to the Co-ordinating Bureau International Students Conference.

"It has been 30 exciting years. I look back with pleasure at some of the things I have been involved in and I am happy that during our time we were able to put Jamaica firmly and indelibly on the map," Mr. Patterson said in reply to the many tributes paid to him.

However, he expressed sadness at the "spectre of violence that looms so large in the political arena today. The most one could expect in the past were a few rotten eggs and stones, never M16's and Magnums."

A vice-president of the party, Mr. Seymour Mullings, traced Mr. Patterson's political career and in commending him for his work said, "a great political future awaits him".

Memories of campaign days and the early political career of Mr. Patterson were recalled by his former Cabinet colleague, Mr. Keeble Munn, and by Mr. Carl Rattary, who chaired the function.

During the dinner a huge, deco-

rated cake was cut by Mr. Patterson and a former classmate, Ms. Violet Neilson, PNP constituency representative for East Central St. James.

From his early beginnings as a member of the International Student Panel which was appointed to investigate "Denial of Academic Freedom in Nicaragua", Mr. Patterson moved to become a member of the Jamaican Senate and leader of Opposition Business in the Senate from 1967 to 1970.

He became the PNP Vice-President in 1969 and its National Campaign Director in 1972. During the 1970's he was Minister of Industry, Tourism and Foreign Trade, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Tourism; and became Deputy Prime Minister from 1978 to 1980. He was elected to his present post of party chairman in 1983.

Among his international achievements, Mr. Patterson was a principal negotiator of behalf of African, Caribbean and Pacific states for the Lome 1 Convention in 1973, and head of the Caribbean delegation to the International Sugar Agreement meeting in Geneva in 1974.

From 1977 to 1980 he was leader of the Ministerial delegation from Jamaica to the Law of the Sea conferences, and also served as the Ministerial chairman of the Group of 77, the Third World economic body.