

HON. P.J. PATTERSON, M.P.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

The Hon. Percival James Patterson was born on April 10, 1935 in the Parish of St. Andrew. His father, deceased, was a farmer and his mother, nee Ina James, a teacher.

Mr. Patterson's political career began in 1959 when he was appointed as Organizer for the People's National Party in the Parish of St. Elizabeth. On his return from studies for the Bar, he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Party in 1964.

In 1967, he was appointed to the Senate and later became Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. In 1969, Mr. Patterson was elected to the office of Vice-President of the PNP and in the following year filled 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.

His early education was at Somerton Government School and Calabar High School in Kingston which he attended on a Purcell Trust Scholarship.

Mr. Patterson graduated from the University of the West Indies in 1958 with a B. A. Honours Degree in English, having represented the Guild of Undergraduates of the University at international conferences in Ceylon (1956) and Nigeria (1957). He served on the Executive of the International Students' Conference and was a member of an ISC team which visited Nicaragua in 1957.

After two years of teaching in Jamaica, he entered the London School of Economics where he won the Hughes Parry Prize for excellence in Law of Contract and a Leverhulme Scholarship to read for his law degree. He graduated in 1963 with the LL.B (Honours) degree and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple and was admitted to the Jamaican Bar in December of the same year.