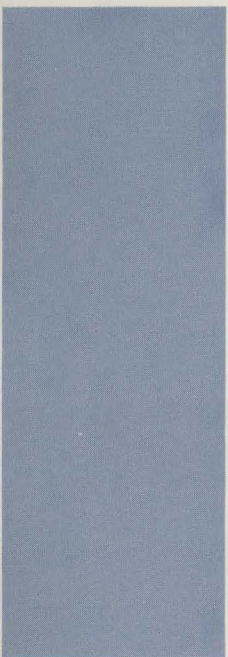
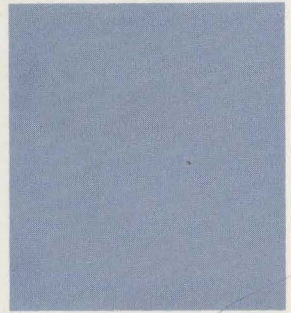


# EXCERPTS

from  
selected speeches  
made by  
Prime Minister  
the Rt Hon. P. J. Patterson  
Prime Minister of Jamaica



- *LABOUR  
MOVEMENT*
- *REGIONAL  
CO-OPERATION*
- *TOURISM*

**jis**

JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE  
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June



**T**he liberalization of our foreign exchange control system together with the process of deregulation on which we have embarked represent the most far reaching measures on the economic side which have been taken by any government since our independence in 1962.”

“Indeed, we are in a new ballgame, every national institution has to examine its role and its function as a consequence of all this and the labour movement is no exception.”

“Traditionally, our unions over time have played the role of the adversary of capital at their work place; protecting the workers and their members with the traditional tool of collective bargaining. I would want to suggest to you today that this is no longer enough.”

“If the labour movement is to maintain its relevance in today’s environment, it has to become a truly national institution with a perspective that is national, that is regional and that is international. Indeed, it is the union’s attitude to information, to education and to productivity that is going to largely determine its relevance to the future and the years ahead.”

“I want to suggest that the union cannot confine its attention to those who are presently employed, it must extend its concern to the broader society to work towards a situation where one day we will have full employment in our land.”

“It is this government which has enabled workers in the tourist industry to get gratuities without the incidence of tax. It is this government which has committed the country to growth which is led by increased production and productivity and that is why we have agreed to make income tax relief available for genuine productivity schemes and those which secure better export performance. But we have to ensure that the productivity schemes are genuinely about productivity and not merely a ruse or a disguise to reduce income tax obligations without increasing the level of productivity which is so badly needed to enable us to compete in the international market.”

“...the notion of the working class as a frozen category is no longer valid. Increasingly, the worker, while holding a job is busily trying to become a small entrepreneur and hopefully in time become a bigger one.”

“I call upon the workers to become owners in the enterprises where they are presently employed, that is why before the end of this year the employer/employee share owners programme will become legally enacted and thereby enable special relief to those who intend to purchase shares in the enterprises where they work. And in the whole process of privatisation, the workers are being invited to become part-owners. I have kept the subject of privatisation under my own immediate control because I think it is going to profoundly affect the social and economic fate of Jamaica well into the future.”

“Workers tend to feel that whenever a company is changing hands what they must look to grab is the redundancy pay to put in their pockets, and while in the whole divestment process calculations will be made as to redundancy entitlement, I would like the far sighted union leaders to use their influence in encouraging their members to invest as much as possible of the redundancy payments to which they are entitled in acquiring a piece of the cake in the sugar industry.”

“And what we want to do in the sugar industry I would like us in due course to do in the bauxite industry, and I would like us to do it in tourism. I emphasize, we are about economic democracy, and that must mean that the base of ownership is as wide as possible to permit our people to be active owners and participants in the economic future of our country - Jamaica.”

“To do this, we have to build a savings ethics. One of the reasons why we have remained so long with the IMF is because we have been unduly dependent on borrowing the savings of people from other countries. We must generate our own savings and be able to use our own savings in building our own country. Very recently, many workers have got huge retroactive payments, some from the public sector some from the private sector, these have been accompanied by significant salary increases, and I am going to beg you, don't use all that money in purchasing consumer goods, use some of that money to put a roof over your head, and put something in a savings account that you can look after yourselves, look after your children and when they come of age they not only go to secondary schools, not only to technical school, but you have something stashed away that can help to get them through University.” Information and education are essential, these must assist the workers to determine what constitutes a fair return from the enterprise to which they give their labour and to demand the conditions which will enable them to give of their best.”

“I regard the Labour movement as a force for political and social change, it must also be an influence to help chart the additional changes which we need in our society and let me say it, and say it plainly, you can't build a country on indiscipline, you can't build a country where no one respects anyone else, you can't build a country where everyone feels they are free to do as they like without regard to the interest of others around them, and a union movement therefore has a special role in influencing its members to have respect for laws, respect for collective agreements solemnly entered into, and if decisions must rest on the democratic participation of its membership at all times.”

"I believe that the challenge of the trade union movement is how to avert industrial strife while ensuring the benefit of creative tension that comes from an organised and powerful labour movement. I say to you educate your members to enhance productivity and in their sense of social responsibility."

"What we need is a spurt of investment. We need to increase production with emphasis on export earnings, we have to become efficient and competitive in the international market place, we cannot depend on external loans forever. Self reliance is the key, competition is the name of the game. When we get our act together, the government, the private sector and the labour movement, we will not only make our economy resilient and strong but we will ensure that I am able to fulfill my election commitment that this IMF agreement will be our last and in 1995, we will say to the IMF, tata, goodbye and farewell."

"Our commitment to labour legislation and industrial harmony remains unchanged."

"The emergence of the concept of a global village is a phenomenon with which the National Labour movement will have to contend, and as we move towards the process of economic integration within CARICOM the ties and bonds between labour unions in the Caribbean should become stronger and closer as the days go by."

*24th Annual Congress of the National Workers*

*Union - Oceana Hotel*

(the Jamaica Conference Centre) ... "this conference centre is a constant reminder of Jamaica's recognition of the interdependence of nations. It symbolizes our commitment to work together with our neighbours and the wider international community to solve common problems."

... meeting in this fashion underscores our admission that, as a region, we face common problems. Even as we seek to strengthen our bilateral arrangements -

we recognize that they serve as building blocks for a wider regional collaboration, a necessary condition for economic growth."

"Never before has the need been greater for us to pool resources, rationalize our approach to issues of common concern and remove artificial barriers that have separated our peoples for so many centuries."

"We acknowledge that the CARICOM and Central American sub-regions have their differences (history, language, culture). But we also acknowledge that we share common problems (low levels of production and development, an external debt burden, drug trafficking)."

"Let us fully exploit all the opportunities that membership of these organizations present. Let us strive to develop our economies and create links between our peoples."

"I do not believe we should allow "The Banana Issue" to stand in our way. The CARICOM community its fully united in preserving the right of access to which we are entitled by the treaty obligations of the Lome convention. An increase of European consumption gives ample room for the expansion of banana exports from the cultivations which the multinationals have recently undertaken in Central America."

"Let us seek to foster CARICOM/Central America relations and not remain divided by external considerations. Let us once and for all shed externally imposed divisions."

"For too long our subregions have been meeting on the margins of international activity, in amiable rivalry - whether at the United Nations, the OAS, in the GATT. Now let us utilize those same points of contact for organized collaboration, based on a recognition that our common interest and experience require that we work together as a team. That concept is recognized by the joint consultative forum, and speaks to the need to put our institutional house in order."

“Let us seek to create within the wider Caribbean special trading and functional arrangements on terms which reflect our potential and peculiarities. Let us build on existing initiatives, promote trade expansion, which are relevant to the wider Caribbean. Against this backdrop, we endorse this initiative for an association of Caribbean States.”

“An important component for the success of this cooperation as well as the expansion of trade, including tourism flows, is the need to improve the Air, Sea and Telecommunications links between the two sub-regions.”

“I must once again state that my Government is disturbed about the human rights abuses being perpetrated and the suffering of the Haitian people.”

“Within the OAS, CARICOM and Central America have been working towards restoring the democratically elected President of Haiti, Jean Bertrand Aristide.”

“The ongoing UN/OAS initiatives to bring about a solution have our full support.”

“A similar urgency must be brought to bear on effects to adjust to NAFTA, EAI, a Single European Market, the Uruguay Round, and to make them work for the region rather than against it. As CBI beneficiary countries, we must also mobilize our resources to defend the Parity Bill which is now before the US Congress.”

“It is time to reap the peace dividend - to tackle the age old scourges of poverty, disease, ignorance and unemployment. Time to overcome barriers of history and foreign domination, to establish meaningful patterns of cooperation and to forge new bonds of friendship in a hemisphere of freedom and liberty.”

*Foreign Ministers' Conference – CARICOM/Central America. Jamaica Conference Centre May 27, 1993.*

“Since May of 1986 your organisation has been quietly and efficiently establishing itself as a very real force in both the public and private sector. But

there is more work to be done, new opportunities for service and new challenges that should be confronted.”

“I believe the spirit of co-operation between both the public and private sectors is at its best now- simply because there is the knowledge that we will have to co-operate to survive. We risk being left behind, despite cheap labour, as countries with more efficient production systems capture our markets.”

*The Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce – Wyndham Hotel May 26, 1993*

“The role of the political directorate differs from the Civil Servant - but there is a common objective to promote the welfare and best interests of the people. It is them we seek to serve and it is to them we are accountable.”

“We may be seated at different positions but we are on the same side of the table.”

“This team takes office at what is widely regarded as a watershed in the life of our nation. The policies we pursue, the success of the programmes we implement, will determine whether Jamaica ends this decade ready for the competitive challenges of today's world and how the next generation will face the 21st Century.”

“I am profoundly conscious that no Government can fulfill its mandate in the absence of a Civil Service that is highly motivated, creative and efficient in the task of nation building. We are partners, not adversaries.”

“Today we face new realities :

- that there is a flood of rising expectations among our people for a better quality of life which requires a provision of shelter, jobs, foods, education, adequate health care, reliable transportation and effective security.”

“Our economic model recognizes the private sector as the main engine of growth and production.”

“The state sets the grounds rules. It is the monitor. Where necessary, it regulates. But most important of all, it is the facilitator. In other words it is not just there to prevent – but rather to make things happen. Instead of saying what cannot be done, it must help to guide what we all agree needs to be done. The Civil Service has to become a conscious agent of change. It is crucial to our economy. It is critical to the future of this nation.”

“The Ministry of Finance is being strengthened for greater financial management. Of particular interest will be a restructuring and strengthening of Taxation Administration, Budgeting and Cash Management to pay for all essential services, and wages and salaries of those Civil Servants who deliver those programmes. We must seek to ensure that all Jamaicans meet their tax obligations and government expenditure is in the best interest of the people.”

“The role of the Ministry of the Public Service is changing so that it will become a more proactive organization in the programme of reform.”

“I am confident that now that we have achieved the slimming down of the Civil Service, we can and will develop a stronger, more efficient and more cost effective body - we can and will develop a Civil Service that is more responsive and more productive - a body that is confident and professional, able to attract and retain quality personnel at all levels.”

“We must become more client centered and result-oriented and give the tax payer value for money and must be seen to do so. We are in the people business - for we exist to serve the needs of the people.”

...“ quality advice and skill and efficiency in carrying out decisions are at the heart of the contribution that a Civil Service makes to the effective conduct of modern government.”

*7th Annual General Meeting of the Jamaican Civil Service Association  
May 27, 1993*

“According to the World Travel Tourism Council, consumption of travel and tourism goods and services are expected to total over US\$2 trillion this year and is likely to employ over 126 million workers. It is also projected that by year 2,000 the tourism industry will grow to more than US\$3 trillion.”

“The years that lie ahead may well be the most challenging we have ever faced as nations, and as businessmen and women working hard to make a living in the hospitality industry. With competition coming from more places around the world than we ever thought imaginable, no one -no consumer, no travel partner from overseas owes us their time, or their money. We must earn them.”

“In this last decade of the twentieth century, we are all aware that throughout the world Government resources have become extremely limited. Dynamic and synergistic partnerships with enterprising individuals and companies therefore take on greater meaning.”

“My government is fully committed to the development of the Tourism Industry. We are also fully committed to regional cooperation, as evidenced by our leadership role and active participation in the deepening and strengthening of CARICOM and in our initiatives in Central American, Latin American and South - South cooperation.”

“We are placing all our available resources in support of tourism in such areas as police protection and crime control, provision of adequate health care and sanitation, and the improvement of infra-structure that redounds to the benefit of local residents and visitors alike.”

“My Government acknowledges the urgent need for marked improvement in our tourism product in terms of both physical and human resource development. This is why we have taken steps to rationalise our product organisation. It is our hope that with the new arrangement by which one entity - Tourism Action Plan Ltd., - focuses on the product, we will achieve greater consistency in policy; greater coordination of our efforts; reduction of inter-agency bureaucracy; cost effectiveness and greater flexibility in allocation of resources.”

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"Various opinions have been expressed in recent weeks either against or in support of the value of cruise shipping. If we are going to engage in comparisons, we must ensure that we compare like with like. If the subjects for comparison are not identical, we must have a common data base and agreed criteria for assessment. A comprehensive study of the economic impact of tourism in Jamaica, funded by the OAS, will be commissioned shortly and this should provide an objective assessment of the economic importance of both stop-over visitors as well as cruise passengers."

"Both land-based tourism and cruise shipping obviously have their place if handled with sensitivity. Both provide employment and income for our respective countries to differing degrees. What we need to do as a region is to ensure that we create conditions that stimulate both equally."

"I am confident that in the spirit of regional co-operation and in the interest of all of us who benefit from the industry, reason will prevail. We need to strike the right balance between contending parties and we must arrive, without too much delay, at a conclusion to the present problem that will satisfy all parties involved."

"Nor can we afford to neglect the important question of human resource development. We must develop a trained work force that understands that the satisfied customer must be our ultimate objective. Total quality management creates committed employees. Our workers must become customer focused and the incentives must be there to keep them that way."

"Tourism is no longer a sideshow, nor can it remain an appendage in our national economies. It is now a mainstream sector and must be fully integrated. The travel trade is destined to create changes no less profound in the movement, outlook and relationship between peoples than did the industrial revolution three centuries ago."



"But the surge tourism could pose new hazards for the global environment. This serves to remind us that whether we are visitors or host, we have a common obligation to maintain the fragile ecological balance which all mankind must share on this planet Earth.

***The Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference (CHIC 93) in Ocho Rios,  
June 7, 1993***

"In this last decade of the 20th century, the world has seen a dramatic increase in the number of tourists visiting the Caribbean. This has brought with it a host of new challenges and opportunities. As the industry grows, it must be able to meet the needs of its visitors in a way that is both sustainable and profitable. This requires a commitment to excellence in service, a focus on the environment, and a dedication to the well-being of the local community. We must ensure that our development is inclusive and that we are creating a better future for all.

"I am confident that in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, we can overcome these challenges and create a bright future for the Caribbean. We need to work together, to share our knowledge and resources, and to support each other in our efforts to improve the quality of our industry. Let us strive for a future that is not only prosperous but also sustainable and equitable for all.

"That can we afford to neglect the important question of human resources development. We must develop a trained workforce that is capable of meeting the needs of the industry. This requires a commitment to education and training, and a focus on the development of the local workforce. Our workers must be empowered and encouraged to take ownership of their work and to contribute to the success of the industry. This is the only way to ensure a sustainable and competitive future.

"My Government has been pleased to support the industry's efforts to improve the quality of its services and to create a better future for all. We will continue to work closely with the industry and the local community to address the challenges ahead and to create a bright future for the Caribbean. Let us strive for a future that is not only prosperous but also sustainable and equitable for all.