

B/N - Sangster, Donald

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Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council Conferences in 1951, 1964, 1965 and 1966. Jamaica was the host for this conference in 1965 and Mr. Sangster presided over the sessions. He also led Jamaica's delegation to the

FILE PHOTOS

Mayor of Kingston Councillor Frank Spaulding (left) with 'Miss City of Kingston' Mitsie Constantine and Finance Minister Donald Sangster watching the National Float Parade in August 1962.

### LOST SEAT

In December 1944, Jamaica had its first General Election under the new constitution, which granted Universal Adult Suffrage; Mr. Sangster contested but lost the South St. Elizabeth seat as an independent candidate. In 1949 he was elected chairman of the Parochial Board; in that same year, Mr. Sangster joined the Jamaica Labour Party, won the South St. Elizabeth seat in the general election and was appointed Minister for Social Welfare in the new Government.

In 1950, he was appointed First Deputy Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party; in 1953 when Sir Harold Allan, the JLP's Minister of Finance, died, he was given the post; he was also given the added responsibility as Leader of the House.

At about this time, the Federal idea received some impetus and a regional economic conference was set up. Mr. Sangster was appointed Jamaica's delegate to this organisation.

In the General Election of February 1955, Mr. Sangster's political career suffered a temporary setback when the JLP was defeated and he lost his seat. For a while he concentrated on his law practice, but by 1956 he won the North East

### GIVEN OLD PORTFOLIOS

He continued as a member of the Opposition until 1962 when, after the dissolution of the Federation, a general election was held to determine which party would form the Government to lead Jamaica into Independence. The Jamaica Labour Party was successful and Mr. Sangster was given his old portfolios of Minister of Finance and Leader of the House. Shortly after he was named Deputy Prime Minister to Sir Alexander Bustamante.

In 1964 Prime Minister Sir Alexander Bustamante fell ill and Mr. Sangster acted as Prime Minister for a short while. Sir Alexander resumed office in a few months but with

a reduced workload and Mr. Sangster undertook some of the tasks of the Prime Minister's Office.

In January 1965, Sir Alexander was stricken again but this time he remained incapacitated. Mr. Sangster

assumed the onerous responsibilities of the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence, in addition to his regular duties as Minister of Finance.

Mr. Sangster was leader of Jamaica's delegation to the

World Bank and International Monetary Fund Meetings in Washington, U.S.A. in 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966. Mr. Sangster was a governor of the World Bank from 1963 until his death.

Mr. Sangster led his party to victory at the general election of February 21, 1967 and was sworn in as Prime Minister on February 22, 1967. He completed forming his Cabinet and was examining proposals for the Government's 1967-1968 Budget when he was taken ill on Saturday, March 18. He was rushed to the Montreal Neurological Institute in Canada Monday, March 20.

The Queen conferred the title of Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order on Mr. Sangster on April 7.

### GIVEN STATE FUNERAL

Despite expert medical attention at the Neurological Institute, Sir Donald died at 12.45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 1967.

He was given a State funeral on April 17 and was buried in the George IV Memorial Park (now National Heroes Park) in Kingston.

The Donald Sangster International Airport was named after him and his portrait appears on the \$100 note.

- JIS Information Pamphlet

### SIR DONALD SANGSTER (1911-1967)

SIR DONALD Burns Sangster, Jamaica's second Prime Minister, was born on October 26, 1911, in the parish of St. Elizabeth. He was the son of W.B. Sangster, a commissioned land surveyor, and Mrs. Sangster. He was educated at Munro College in Jamaica (1921-1929) where he was outstanding in a number of sports.

After leaving high school, Mr. Sangster started studying to be a solicitor but before he finished these studies he took the first step in his political career. He was elected to the St. Elizabeth Parochial Board in 1933 when he was only 21. Mr. Sangster's entry into politics was a family tradition; one of his uncles, Watt Sangster, was one of a small group of Jamaican-born legislators lead by J.A.G. Smith, who challenged the absolute supremacy of the colonial governors in the '20s and '30s.

In 1937, Mr. Sangster was admitted as a solicitor and in 1941, he took another step forward in his political career when he was elected vice-chairman of the St. Elizabeth Parochial Board.

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