

P.2A Sunday Herald May 19-25, 2002

Dr Hugh Lawson Shearer

Rt Hon Dr Hugh Lawson Shearer, OJ, PC, LLD (Hon) trade unionist. President Bustamante Industrial Trade Union.

Born: Martha Brae, Trelawny, May 18, 1923.

Educated: Falmouth Primary School, won parish scholarship to St.Simon's College.

Career: Journalist "Jamaica Worker," then editor. Joined Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, assistant general secretary 1947, member Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation 1947-51, Colonial Development and Welfare Trade Union Scholarship 1948, Island Supervisor of Union 1953, member House of Representatives 1955-59, vice-president B.I.T.U 1960, member of the Legislative Council, Leader of Government Business in the Senate and minister without portfolio, deputy chief of mission for Jamaica at the United Nations General Assembly 1962-67, Presented proposal for 1968 Human Rights Year, member Jamaican delegation at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference 1966, M.P. for Southern Clarendon 1967-93, appointed Minister of External Affairs, Appointed Prime Minister of Jamaica on the death of Sir Donald Sangster 1967. Returned to Trade Union 1972, Leader Opposition until 1974, president B.I.T.U. 1977. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade 1980-89; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Industry and Commerce 1986-89; Chairman, Joint Trade Unions Research Development Centre 1992; Founder and Patron Association of Senior Citizens Clubs 1993. President, Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions 1994.

Denomination: Baptist

Address: B.I.T.U., 98 Duke Street, Kingston

The personification of friendship

To give a tribute to the Rt. Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer, is a tremendous honour, and, as his friend a pleasant task.

Mr. Shearer holds his friends in high esteem and is there in times of joy and sorrow. He exudes compassion and has taught his humility. He is the same in victory as in defeat.

His infectious laughter is his trademark. You cannot but know that Hugh is around when you hear that laughter, even if he is not in sight. His tremendous sense of humour puts him in the spotlight wherever he is,

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and his magnetic personality pulls people to him.

This has helped him as a trade unionist and a politician, as Jamaicans from all walks of life love and respect him.

The ability to work in the national interest regardless of political affiliation, is the hallmark of Hugh Lawson Shearer.

He is generous with his time to charities and is willing to volunteer his service for any worthy cause. His love of Jamaica and people is second to none. Words cannot fully described the appreciation, to ve and respect that I have for this man.

He personifies the meaning of friendship.

His wife, Denise, has been a tower of strength to him, and I wish to congratulate her on being a role model for wives. She complements him in every way.

I wish for my friend, Hugh, long life and God's richest blessing.

Happy Birthday, Hugh!

Arnold Foote