

PREFACE

This study is not intended to be a detailed survey of political development in Jamaica, nor of the evolution of the education system, although it will necessarily involve aspects of both these processes. Its main purpose is to relate educational policy and administration to political change within the historical perspective of the transition from colonialism to national government.

Interest in the subject was prompted by two principal factors. On the one hand, there has been an almost feverish emphasis among "political modernisers" in the developing areas on the importance of educational expansion as a sine qua non of national progress. Quantitatively, this is reflected in the efforts to provide universal primary education and increased opportunity at the secondary and higher levels. Qualitatively, the same trend is evidenced in the attempts to revise curricula and methods of teaching, and to relate educational achievement to the social, economic and political needs of the society. On the other hand, at the academic level, there has been only a limited amount of research aimed at

making more explicit the broadly accepted assumptions about the role of education in the modernisation process; and more specifically directed to some of the problems encountered by countries which have inherited their school system from metropolitan forebears and must adapt it to suit their own needs.

Jamaica was selected for a study of this nature, partly because of the availability of material, and also because it presented the interesting possibility of developing a general framework of educational and political relationships within the particular context of a colonial system aspiring to national independence. Much of the information used was obtained from the documentary materials relating to the period. However, a significant part of the discussion and analysis is based on the result of interviews with key persons in government; with educators and others involved in public policy and administration; and with the man in the street who is, in the final analysis, the most important evidence of the effectiveness of this policy.

The following personal interviews were conducted during the period 1966-1969:

The Hon. Edwin Allen - Minister of Education

Dr. Arthur Burt - Parliamentary Secretary in the
Ministry of Education.

Mr Florizel Glasspole - former Minister of Education

Mr B. St. J. Hamilton - former Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education

Mr G. W. Hawthorne - Secretary, Jamaica Union of
Teachers

Mr N. W. Manley - Founder and President of the
People's National Party
Premier of Jamaica 1955-1962

Mr R. M. Murray - former Chief Education Officer,
Ministry of Education

Dr. A. S. Phillips - former President, Jamaica Union
of Teachers.

Also, the writer at times relied on personal experience
in the various phases of the education system.

It is acknowledged that a study of this kind will be
criticised for ignoring certain areas that are important
to historians and educators. However, it is presented
as an attempt to provide a useful framework within which
various phases of social and political change and their
interaction can be meaningfully examined and related.

Finally, I wish to express appreciation to the
following members of staff of the University of the West
Indies for invaluable assistance in the preparation of
this thesis:

Mr Rex Nettleford, Head of the Trade Union Institute,
who suggested several vital areas which needed to be con-
sidered; Dr. Aubrey Phillips, Lecturer in the Depart-
ment of Education, who gave me important references;

Dr. Archie Singham and Miss Ann Spackman, my Supervisors, who commented on the first draft and recommended necessary revision; and Professor G. E. Mills, Head of the Department of Government, who encouraged and advised me.

Also, my sincere thanks to Mrs Philip Duncan, who cheerfully undertook the arduous task of preparing the typescript; and to the staff of the University of the West Indies Library and the West India Reference Library for their willing help in finding reference material.