

Bahamians claim to know who stole
into Sir Harry's bedroom
and bludgeoned and burned
the hated multimillionaire;
if so, why hasn't
the island government acted?

Will the Oakes Murder Ever Be Solved?

by **ELLERY QUEEN**



This is the Nassau house, known as Westbourne, where Sir Harry was brutally murdered. The shuttered windows on upper balcony led to his room. The floor plan shows the wing he slept in.



IN MAY, 1959, 16 years after the murder of Bahamian multimillionaire Sir Harry Oakes, a determined gentleman named Cyril St. John Stevenson, editor-publisher of *The Nassau Herald* and member of the Bahamas House of Assembly, rose in that body to introduce a resolution requesting Gov. Sir Raynor Arthur to reopen the Oakes murder investigation, enlisting Scotland Yard's help.

"In my opinion," Stevenson told his colleagues, "Oakes was killed by one of his close friends whom he had no reason to suspect and who drank with him several hours before the murder." And the Bahamian newspaperman-legislator thundered, "I could point my finger at the man responsible!"

The House passed his resolution unanimously. In its issue of July 18, 1959—a full two months later—*The Nassau Herald* complained, "It is apparent to everyone that the governor intends to delay his decision on the Oakes murder case until the death rattle sounds in the throat of the present session of the House. . . . A murderer is walking the streets of the colony today with all the protection and security afforded the Queen of England."

