

'Bajan invasion' in pan too

WITH the recent controversy involving calypso still in the air, steelbands have suddenly begun to take advantage of an old rule that their Panorama selections need not be tunes composed by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

The first noticeable result turns up in this year's listings, which show that there has been (however slight) a swing toward tunes coming out of Barbados.

While the foreign tunes find

favour only with traditional (pan round neck) steelbands to date, Chord Masters has even gone the additional distance route of playing a song by krosfyah, a Barbadian group, which celebrates one of that country's athletes.

There is also the presence of Antigua, with Nuttin Big Pan Groove selecting "Swing the Engine", one of the season's favourites by Burning Flames.

Serenaders has chosen Nicholas Branker's "Pump Me Up" (also performed by krosfyah) for their Panorama song.

An apparent preference for these songs was demonstrated by the party crowds during the Christmas season and there has been a spillover into the Carnival season, with Edwin Yearwood who sings lead vocals

for krosfyah) performing nightly at the Calypso Spektakula.

Next week, there is a fete with only foreign bands performing and already tickets are at a premium.

Pan Trinbago President Owen Serrette told the *Express* that at the time of making the rule, there was an overwhelming push for a broadening of choices in the selection of Panorama songs.

At that time, just two or three of the local songs were used as "test-pieces" by bands in the competition.

Even so, Kitchener, Len "Boogie" Sharpe and The Original De Fosto Himself emerge as the favoured composers this year

