

Express

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1985

●50 CENTS

PANORAMA IN DANGER

By LEONARD ROBERTSON

WITH only one day to go before the preliminaries were due to kick off at the Queen's Park Savannah in Port of Spain, Panorama 1985 is hanging in the balance once more.

Representatives of about 100 steelbands from across the country voted last night to withdraw from the show unless Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs Minister, Marilyn Gordon agreed to meet with them urgently today to resolve a fresh crisis which developed yesterday.

The panmen also decided to go to the Ministry's Laventille offices this morning with their supporters and families to make "the call loud and clear we want we Panorama."

These decisions followed a meeting between Pan Trinbago and the Carnival Development Committee yesterday afternoon at which the CDC informed the panmen they had no authority to promise any payments to the officers of the pan movement nor to decide on the 25 percent increase in prize money sought by the panmen.

In disclosing this, Pan Trinbago's president Arnim Smith also said that Marilyn Gordon, the Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs, had finally agreed to meet with Pan Trinbago to discuss Panorama 1985 on Monday, February 4, two days after the scheduled start of the competition. Smith said this showed total disrespect for panmen and the draw for positions in this weekend's shows did not take place.

Pan Trinbago had written the Minister on December 12 last year requesting a meeting to discuss Panorama but although the Minister issued an acknowledgment dated December 28, the steelband body did not receive it until January 16. Further, Smith said last night, the letter informing Pan Trinbago about next Monday's meeting was received yesterday.

Smith said the CDC had gone back on its word and if no meeting could be held today between Pan Trinbago and the Minister, the bands would not take part in Panorama. However if the meeting does take place, the draw, which was scheduled for yesterday would take place this afternoon.