Panorama night is now

THE annual steelband Carnival competition has come a long way over very difficult, and at times it seemed impossible terrain. In the early life of the CDC some assistance was given to the NATTS in the form of grants to cover prizes and other expenses. In addition the facilities were rented on very liberal terms.

These early concerts were not the critical nor financial success that one would have hoped for. Very few of the recognised big names participated.

Sometimes the advertised prizes (I seem to recall the first prize was \$350) had to be reduced after the show because of poor attendance. At most a couple thousand people attended, and eight to ten bands competed.

Finally we came to an agreement with the Association that the competition



MR. PRINCE CUMBER-BATCH, Secretary of the Carnival Development Committee.

A MESSAGE FROM SENATOR: RONALD WILLIAMS

would be co-sponsored. The CDC would put up the money for the preliminary expenses, be responsible for sales publicity, etc. and the Association would provide the competitors who must be members of the Association.

I think it was this insistence on membership which was responsible for the strengthening of the Association since bands had to be financial to participate.

Added attraction

The first prize was raised all the administration, to \$1000. The same level as The Band of the Year, and appearance fees were paid to compensate the bands for foregoing dance engagements they might have had.

As an added attraction we introduced the elimination contest for Queen of the Bands since the number of contestants

on the timetable

had got too unmanageable for the Dimanche Gras Show. The show was called Panorama and I am proud to be recorded as having chosen the name.

We next faced the problem of members. This was to be a National contest with bands from all over the country. You just could not put on 25 to 30 steelbands on an evening show. This number grew to over 40. We finally decided to have the Panorama Preliminaries through This show, a miniature Carnival has become so popular that this year, in addition to the Covered Annexes, seats will be sold in the Grand Stand and the North Stand.

The Panorama show and Preliminaries have become an integral part of our Carnival celebrations. It is significant that the Calypsonian has immortalised "Panorama Night" in song, and today Panorama Night is as well known in our Carnival timetable as Dimanache Gras and J'ouvert morning.



SENATOR RONALD WILLIAMS, chairman of the Carnival Development Committee.