

# ROADMARCH ROW - KITCH VS SPARROW

THE MIGHTY SPARROW fussed last night that steel bandsmen were being "brainwashed" by Road March King, Lord Kitchener.

"Steelbandsmen definitely are being told: This is the roadmarch tune," chirped an angry Sparrow, describing Kitchener's daily five-minute radio broadcast.

"Sparrow is insulting steelbandsmen by saying that they could be brainwashed by a radio programme."

Kitchener also pointed out that all his top tunes - "Miss Tourist," "Marsican," "the Wrecker" and the "Best Things in Life are Free" - have been given equal hearing on radio.

"Therefore, how could anyone say I was pushing a particular tune to be roadmarch?" he asked.

"Why didn't Sparrow talk about how I pulled off a hattrick in 1963, 1964, and 1965 with the "Road," "Mama dis is Mas" and "My Pussin" without a radio programme.

"In fact, I was not even in Trinidad when 'My Pussin' won as road-

march," Kitchener added.

"If telling steelbands that a particular tune would be roadmarch was enough to make any calypso win, then articles by Keith Smith and Chester Morong would have made Sparrow's tune a winner long ago," Kitchener said.

## CATCHY

Commented Kitchener: "Naturally, steelbands will play tunes by Sparrow and other calypsonians, but the real roadmarch they will beat in the Savannah. That's their 'bomb.'"

He said for example, that "Fire, Fire" was a "catchy tune" which was bound to be played on the road.

"But count how many times it will be played in the Savannah - despite its popularity," Kitchener said.

## Pan lovers may be in for a shock tonight

THE semi-final round of the Panorama competition tonight should produce several surprises.

Already the first elimination round last Sunday, it was stated, produced one of the biggest shocks in panland when the highly-rated West Indian Gay Desperadoes failed to please its fans.

Yet Despers are the only band entering the semi-final round that took the title of Champion Steelband at Panorama once before.

In four other competi-

tions, Pan Am North Stars and Guinness Cavaliers have both won twice.

Pan Am have stayed out of the competition since 1965 and Guinness stayed out this year to go on a tour of Venezuela.

That leaves bands like the Coca Cola Silver Stars, which has always been in the finals.

Or perhaps Forsyth Hilanders, Bomb winners twice, could pull it off with its sharp arrangement of "Mr. Walker."

Other bands in the all-star line-up include Angostura Starlift, Chase Manhattan Savoy's, Esso Tripoli, Old Oak Casablanca, Sandbach City Syncopaters, Shell Invaders, Solo Harmonites, Texaco Dixeland and Trinidad All Stars.

Seven bands will be selected to compete in the final on Carnival Sunday night.

Coupled with the steelband competition tonight will be the Queen of Carnival competition.

## HOGWASH

"I want to make it clear that I am not begging anybody to beat my tunes, but steelbandsmen should not allow themselves to be brainwashed," Sparrow added.

Sparrow claimed that several steelbandsmen admitted that his tunes were definitely the best for the year.

Countered Kitch: "All this talk about brainwash is hogwash. Steelband leaders today are accomplished musicians."