

## THE STEELBAND CONSULTATION AT AG

# GOVT AID FOR BANDS WITH NO SPONSORS

## FUND WILL BE SET UP SOON

By STEPHEN MOHAMMED

A CENTRAL Services Fund to assist unsponsored steelbands will be established with financial help from Government and other sources.

The Attorney-General's Department has been given the task to prepare a framework for legal protection for the successful development of the steelband movement and its music. These were two main areas of agreement at yesterday's steelband consultation.

One of the first assignments that the Attorney-General Karl Hudson-Phillips, has been given in the latter respect will

be to look into amendment of the copyright law.

This was announced by Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, in his capacity as chairman, at the consultation which will enter its final day at Chaguaramas today. The Attorney-General will also work on proposals for the protection of the industrial, scientific and artistic property, of the steelband music.

### Patents

The Legal Department will also give attention to international protection dealing with a treaty with other countries and affiliation to the Performing Rights Society. The question of patents for original processes of steelband music, its recordings, the pan itself, will be given close attention.

The need for legal advice with respect to contractual agreement will also be examined. However, Pan Trintago has been urged that it should help its members in this field.

Dr. Williams also announced that the Tourist Board was now working on proposals for an annual pan festival, possible in November, to coincide with the Best Village Competition, and with the purpose of promoting tourism at that time of the year for the good of the steelband.

### Equipment

He said the Ministry of Education and Culture was at present looking into the idea of teaching pan music in primary schools.

Dealing with the overall question of sponsorship, Dr. Williams announced the setting up of a tripartite committee to work out solutions to problems of sponsored and unsponsored steelbands and the role the business community must play.

The incorporation of the individual steelband in a Central Services Fund for unsponsored bands, will be set up.

Contributions to such a fund will be tax deductible and the fund will deal with the purchase of drums, equipment, scholarships, transportation, and courses in tuning.



CURTIS Pierre, one of the most famous steelband leaders in Trinidad, who submitted a paper to the Consultation which is reported on this page, seen here with Roy Augustus, President of Pan Trintago, at the second day of the steelband talks yesterday.

## Band leader calls for steelpan factory

THE setting up of a steelpan factory was one of the proposals made by Curtis Pierre one of the country's leading steelband leaders in his submission to the steelband consultation.

The anticipated success of this factory could cause similar operations to begin in other parts of Trinidad and Tobago, he believed. One problem, however, was the fact that all steelband instruments need to be tuned from time to time, and this was likely to affect the export market.

Mr. Pierre who leads the Dixieland Steelband suggested; therefore, that the overseas missions should have access to a highly trained pan tuner.

He also strongly recommended that immediate steps be taken to set up a programme incorporating a team selected by Pan Trintago plus two members from the Faculty of Engineering,

## MUSIC COURSES FOR PANMEN?

THE provision of courses for steelbandmen was one of the key recommendations made in the report of the committee appointed by the Prime Minister to consider the Training of Individual Steelbandmen.

### Courses

It was recommended that four kinds of courses should be arranged: a general full-time course of three months' duration which will take participants up to Grade 3 in Music; a general full-time four-month course up to Grade 5 in music, bursaries to existing

Trinidad and Tobago music schools, and special courses in conducting and arranging. It was also suggested that a Completion Certificate be given to every participant, and intensive training should be given to steelbandmen at a central venue.

It was also decided that there should be a training centre to be called the "National School of Steelband Music", and two committees should be appointed by the Prime Minister "to work out costing and to consider curricula."

## Pan centres may be set up

THE "lack of basic information... and the time allotted" was a handicap to the Committee appointed by the National Consultation on Steelband, to look into employment opportunities for steelbandmen.

The committee approached the subject in two ways: the steelbandman as a professional musician and the steelbandman as part of the labour force. The committee pointed out that "a complex subject of this nature could not be completely studied due to the lack of basic information in important areas and also because of the time allotted".

However, recommendations were made urging government to conduct a survey to determine the number of per-

sons engaged in the steelband movement.

It was suggested that the size of the steelbands should be reduced depending on the type of performance in which they were engaged. It was also recommended:

- (1) That the Tourist Board and Overseas Mission help in obtaining overseas markets for the steelbands;
- (2) That steelbandmen should engage in commercial and social activities and make full use of Government's incentives in regard to Co-operatives;
- (3) That steelband centres operating on strictly business lines and providing year-round entertainment be set up;
- (4) That full-scale manufacture of steelband instruments should begin to

supply the local demand for these instruments and to exploit export opportunities.

It was suggested that an attempt should be made to gear pan-tuners to undertake contract assignments overseas.

It was further recommended that the Tourist Board should take steps to assist in the promotion of the steelband as an art form.

This should be done by ensuring that a steelband is available at ports in Trinidad; to encourage hotels to have steelband performances; promote tourist tours to existing steelband centres; and employ steelbands at beach parties etc.