

Pan Trinbago to hand over books to Police

THE CONTROVERSIAL financial documents of Pan Trinbago for the period 1971 to 1973 will be immediately handed over to the Police Fraud Squad for investigation.

Mr. Roy Augustus, who resigned as President of the organisation at a rowdy meeting last month, successfully piloted this motion at Pan Trinbago's special convention yesterday.

It was seconded by Mr. George Goddard, who quit the post as Treasurer last June over the same books which brought down the two previous executives.

Mr. Augustus, who declined nomination for two posts at yesterday's meeting, said:

"Even though I accept the action of my executive, I want to clear my name and the rest of my team."

Mr. Augustus, a school teacher, said that the handing over of the books must be one of the first priorities of the new executive elected yesterday.

Bertie Fraser, who was elected President, confirmed that this would be hastily dealt with.

Several panmen called for the "writing off" of the disputed accounts, so that the new executive could get on with the business of improving the lot of fellow steelbandmen.

This call reached as far as a motion.

But Mr. Alva Rolston, who

described himself as an "investigative accountant" strongly advised members against adopting such a motion.

Mr. Rolston, a former accountant with the Prices Commission, now employed with Trinidad Bagasse Limited, said that bad financial records were not unique to Pan Trinbago. It even extended to so-called "big business."

Speaking as "a lover of steelband," Mr. Rolston said that they should forget talk about misappropriation of funds "and who tief ten dollars," hold the elections (which eventually came off), and the errant ones would be punished in due course.

Mr. Gary Simmons, (Diego Martin Valley Harps), who was accused of going to a Port-of-Spain accountant and "seizing" the 1971-1973 financial documents under the pretext of being sent by the Ministry of Labour, termed such allegations as malicious, wicked and erroneous.

An employee with the Ministry, Mr. Simmons said that he went to the accountant (who was given the records to audit and which he has refused to do), on his own personal business when he was handed the documents to give to Pan Trinbago's executive.

Mr. Simmons, who is still in possession of the records—which he received around the middle of last month—is looking for some member of the executive to sign for them before passing them on.