

GEORGE GODDARD HEADS PANMEN AGAIN



THIS EMBRACE brings business and labour closer.

Mrs. Diana Mahabir speaks for employers as Executive Director of the Employers' Consultative Association, and Mr. Simeon Alexander a trade unionist, is a member of the Board of Governors of the Cipriani Labour College.

Mrs. Mahabir was a guest at the graduation ceremony of the Labour College held at NUGFW Hall, Henry Street, Port-of-Spain

Welcome back home, Diana

on Saturday.

She has just returned from the International Labour Organisation's Geneva Conference and the embrace from Mr. Alexander was a way of saying: "welcome back home."

STEELBANDSMEN yesterday re-elected George Goddard their president-general after he had told them that the Prime Minister and "certain" members of his Cabinet were trying to oust him from the National Association of Steelbandmen — because he could not be bribed.

In an emotional address, Mr. Goddard said that while on the one hand there were people who have spoken highly of him, there were over-ambitious people and "stooges" on the other hand who are prepared to put his head on the slaughter table.

He warned, however, that the steelband movement could not cut his throat; they could cut only their own.

"If the steelband movement feel that they should be represented by stooges, I have no objection, for they should be free to say who they want."

"But" he promised, "as long as I live I will continue to agitate and provoke the powers for the welfare of the steelband movement."

It was an overwhelming victory for Mr. Goddard, but also one marked by flaring tempers which halted the convention at the Catholic Centre for almost 15 minutes.

The trouble arose when Mr. Jerry

Frederick, a member of the Shell Invaders Steel Orchestra, was nominated to oppose Mr. Goddard for the post of president-general.

Mr. Goddard objected to Mr. Frederick's nomination on the ground that he was not a member of the association. Mr. Frederick denied that was so. A stormy debate followed.

Solicitor Lennox Pierre, presiding as elections officer, held up the convention for some 15 minutes to deliberate behind doors with Mr. Goddard, Mr. Frederick and three other members chosen by the convention.

Matter resolved

The matter was later resolved when Mr. Pierre called for the secretary's present records to decide whether Mr. Frederick was a member of the association or not. According to the records, he was not a member.

Mr. Pierre informed Mr. Frederick and his supporters that if they did not agree they could challenge the decision by any means open under the Constitution or the Registrar of Trade Unions under which they are enrolled.

Mr. Goddard afterwards won back his seat from bandsman Jeffrey Chapman, by 33 votes to five.

The officers

Mr. Goddard has been president of the Steelbandmen Association for ten years, eight of which have been consecutive.

The following are the officers elected to serve on the National Association of Steelbandmen for the 1970-72 term:

Mr. George Goddard, president-general; Mr. Dave La Barrie, vice-president (North); Miss Christabelle Springle, vice-president (South); Mr. Aldwyn Chow Lin On, vice-president (East); Mr. Jeffrey Chapman, vice-president (Tobago); Mr. Julien Goddard, general secretary; Mr. Selwyn Charles, asst., general-secretary; Mr. Kenrick Thomas, treasurer.

Mr. Melville Bryan and Mr. Edward Corbie were elected trustees while Mr. Roy Augustus, Cedric Lewis, Owen Serrette, Eustace Solomon and Hyron Charles were elected committee members.

The elections were brought forward on the agenda to accommodate some of the members.

Call for a 'pan' college

LABOUR Congress president, Mr. Nathaniel Critchlow, yesterday called for the establishment of a college in Trinidad to teach steelband music.

He said this could be done in such a way as to attract people from other countries to come here to take courses — "instead of having our experts, forced through

economic necessity, to migrate to foreign lands to sell their talent."

The newly-elected president of Congress, said this to steelbandmen when he delivered the feature address at their biennial convention at the Catholic Centre, Jerningham Avenue, yesterday.

Mr. Critchlow was fol-

lowing in the footsteps of the Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams who disclosed in January this year at a panyard in Tobago that he wants to set up a school for panmen.

Mr. Critchlow told the large audience yesterday that he had noted with pleasure the fact that government has shown some willingness to render

some measure of assistance to the steelband movement.

"But are we satisfied that this has gone far enough?" he asked.

"Are we not justified in expecting a greater measure of public assistance on the basis of our contribution?"

He said the answer was a resounding "Yes".