

Decision taken to erase sponsors' names from pans

THE Steelbands' Association wants the names of sponsors removed from the uniforms and instruments of steelbandmen.

This was one of the decisions taken by the Association's Executive on Sunday.

The Executive found it is time that businessmen be made to contribute to the social development of steelbands in general, "to create a better Trinidad and Tobago from where they derive their profits" without accepting any sort of advertisement in return.

The Executive, to back up its case, cited the "handsome contributions" made by these businessmen to the Church, the Boy Scouts movement and other "so-called charitable institutions" without getting any such advertisement.

It was also agreed that the proposed co-operative factory and other aspects of steelband operations should be operated

by the Association.

Also, that the members of the proposed Steelbands' Research Council be selected on the advice of the Steelbands' Association.

The Executive proposed that a grant be given by Government

in the form of a subvention — and not a loan — to cover the cost of development of steelbands.

In an effort to assist the Association in projecting and promoting steelband music abroad, it was suggested too that steelbandmen be employed in every Embassy, mainly for the purpose of arranging worthwhile overseas programmes for local panmen.

The Executive saw this as

one move which would help alleviate unemployment amongst steelbandmen.

It was decided that the Association should employ as many panmen as possible, particularly in relation to scientific knowledge — like pan-tuners, and others — and pay them respectable salaries and other benefits like Civil Servants.

Government, it was suggested, should give the Association annual grants.

'Apologise or quit'

EXPLAIN and apologise, or quit. This is what the Steelbands' Association Executive has called on its Vice-President, Borough Councillor Egbert Alleyne, to do.

At its meeting on Sunday, the Executive discussed the published report of April 5 in which the Association's president, Mr. George Goddard had accused Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams with using "divide and rule tactics" with regard to the steelband movement.

Mr. Goddard had said that he and Mr. Alleyne were treated with contempt by the Prime Minister at a meeting between Dr. Williams and steelbandmen.

But Mr. Alleyne contradicted Mr. Goddard's statement, and said he was not aware that anything of the kind had happened.

The Association's Secretary, Mr. Kenrick Thomas was also at the meeting with the Prime Minister. And at Sunday's meeting, he said Mr. Goddard's

statement was true.

In the light of this, the Executive decided to ask Mr. Alleyne for a written explanation and an apology. Failing to do so, he should relinquish his position with the Association.



Photo by Herb Jones

EXECUTIVE members of the National Association of Trinidad and Tobago Steelbandmen meet at the office of their legal adviser, Mr. C. A. Tyson. Left to right: Julian Goddard, General Secretary, Mr. George Goddard, President, Mr. Kenrick Thomas, Treasurer, Mr. Dave La Barrie and Mr. Melville Byer, Trustees. This picture was taken yesterday.