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Committee for pan standardisation formed

By JOHN KASSIE

MOVES FOR standardisation of the steel pan, claimed to be the only musical invention in the 20th century, were initiated by the Bureau of Standards yesterday.

The Bureau announced that a Specifications Committee on the steel pan has been set up to advise and assist in the creation of standards for all aspects of pan, including dimensions, quality of materials, placing of notes, transport, storage and terminology.

Everard Llewellyn, Acting Head, Standards Writing Division of the Bureau, announced names of members of the committee at a press conference at Macoya, Tunapuna.

They are Pat Bishop, musical arranger, Arnim Smith and Owen Serrette of Pan Trinbago, Bertie Marshall and Leo Coker, tuners, Richard McDavis, me-

chanical engineer of CARIRI, Ray Holman, arranger/player, Anthony Williams of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Creative Arts, Mario Fuller of Metal Industries Company, Hugh Wilson of Van Leer Containers, with Leslie Pichery and Everard Llewellyn, representing the Bureau.

Mandatory Element

Asked to comment on Pan Trinbago's reaction to this latest move, Arnim Smith stated that "standardisation is a burning desire of the organisation," as evident from their efforts over the past years.

Pan Trinbago and the steelband movement, he added, stand to benefit greatly from the exercise, and will be willing to hand over information collated from players and tuners, to the Committee.

Smith stated that though a large amount of front-line instruments in steelbands have in fact standardised their pans, greater development would be promoted through the process of standardisation handled by a competent Committee.

On the issue of whether the standards developed should be voluntary or compulsory, the Bureau's Director, Gene Hutchinson, advised that there is an mandatory element in standards that are developed by the Bureau of Standards which operates under an Act of Parliament.

"Contractual arrangements between manufacturer and supplier always tend to follow specifications and standards stipulated for production, and this in itself is a safeguard to ensure conformity," he stressed.

The Committee held its first meeting after the press briefing, to determine its

procedures, areas of priorities and time-frames for the exercise.

It was hinted that the first draft of the standards for pan could be released for public comment within a year. International agencies and institutions would also be in the circulation list invited to submit comments.

Common Terminology

Once completed, standards for the steel pan could improve the export potential of manufacturers through obvious cost reductions per unit, it was stated.

Pan-playing itself, would be simplified with the availability of standardised pans by any manufacturer, while the introduction of common terminology will assist in eradicating the confusion and doubt in the use of musical terms associated with the instrument. See Page 16.



EVERARD LLEWELLYN, centre, Acting Head, Standards Writing Division, Bureau of Standards, fields questions on the standardisation of the steel pan. He is flanked by Gene Hutchinson, right, Bureau Director and Arnim Smith, left, President of Pan Trinbago. Photo by JOHN KASSIE.