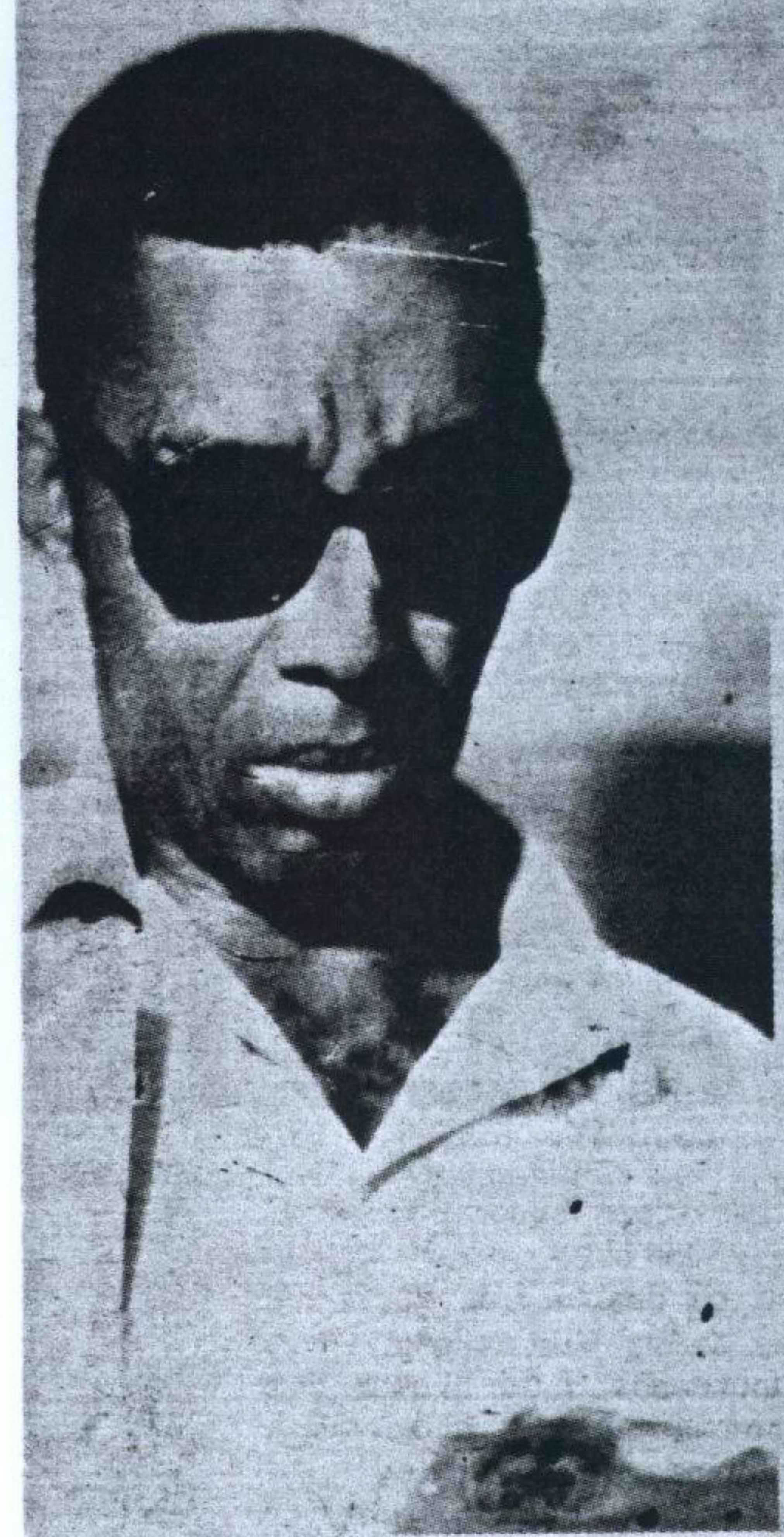


TAIN PEOPLE ARE GOING AROUND YARDS COLLECTING SIGNATURES FORM A NEW STEELBAND BODY'

ARE people trying to malign me? George Goddard pleaded today. Goddard, president-general of the Trinidad and Tobago Steelbandsmen Association has said that there is a plan afoot to remove him out of office, destroy the steelbandsmen association and form a new body with hand-picked persons in key positions.



George Goddard ... it's a campaign to discredit me

He said there was an active campaign to discredit him and all his contributions to the development of the steelband, and that persons were using the name of the Prime Minister in this campaign.

No dealing

As a result, Mr. Goddard yesterday posted to the Prime Minister a wad of testimonials from prominent persons on his contribution to pan.

With the testimonials went this note: 'It has been brought to my attention that there are certain gentlemen in your employ who are going around to the leaders and members of steelbands claiming that they were sent by you to get the signatures of steelbandsmen to form a new steelbandsmen body because your government has no confidence in me, and as a result would have no dealing with the Association of Steelbandsmen of which I am the President-General.'

Leading role

"How true these reports are, Sir, I cannot say, but in an effort to help you (if you so desire) in assessing properly my ability with respect to the steelband movement. I am sending you attached and for your information, photostatic copies of testimonials."

Here are extracts from these testimonials:

FROM SENATOR DONALD PIERRE, Minister of Public Utilities and Housing

Goddard: There's a move to sink me and the panmen

who, as Minister of Education and Culture wrote of Goddard in 1968:

"I have known Mr. Goddard for several years during which time I have always found him to be honest, hard-working, enthusiastic, regular and punctual."

"He has played a leading role in the steelband movement in Trinidad and Tobago, and has contributed greatly to the success which this movement has had locally and abroad during the last five years."

"At one time, the steelband movement was despised especially because its members came from the lowest class of the society."

"The birth of the movement caused social problems in the country. Today all this has changed."

Contribution

"The members of the movement are drawn from all classes of the society, and the country itself can probably boast that the steelband music was born in Trinidad and Tobago."

"This therefore could amply testify to the contribution that Mr. Goddard has made."

FROM MR. GEORGE CHAMBERS, Minister of National Security who wrote as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance in 1968:

"Mr. Goddard has for many years been one of the champions of the cause of steelbandsmen in this country long before the steelband had become the accomplished art form that it is today. In addition, Mr. Goddard has identified himself in many fields of social and welfare work and in particular has been an active and prominent member of the Carnival Development Committee for a number of years."

Convictions

"Mr. Goddard is personally known to me and from my own knowledge can certify that he is reliable, forthright, trustworthy and very strong in his convictions."

FROM SIR HUGH WOODING, who said when he was Chief Justice in 1967: "This is to certify that Mr. George

Goddard of this city has for many years been the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Steelbandsmen and as such did very valuable work in the field of social welfare by shaping what might be described as a spontaneous and often riotous growth into a well-ordered and culturally attractive development."

Pioneers

"The steelbandsmen of this country, most of whom (and especially the pioneers among them) have sprung from the social and economic level of the community which is commonly referred to as the under-privileged, owe their recognition and now widely-accepted status to the untiring efforts of Mr. Goddard to lift them to where they properly belong. He should be highly commended for this by both the steelbandsmen particularly, and by the community generally."

FROM MR. ROBERT WALLACE, former Minister of Labour:

"Mr. Goddard has made a valuable contribution to this country in the field of social welfare work. He was responsible, to a large extent, for the organisation of the steelband body and has helped to bring about improvements in the Carnival celebrations and calypso singing. He has also done social work among youths and encouraged sporting activities."

True friend

Mr. Goddard has also sent an extract from a letter from the captain of the Dixieland Steelband, Curtis Pierre, who wrote from the United Kingdom in 1963:

"It is really at times like these that one really knows who his true friends are, and let me say with all sincerity that I have never known, from any distance, such unselfish esteem from anyone whom I have met or with whom I have had the pleasure of working."

"You can never imagine how good I felt to know that among all my friends in Trinidad, the Association, under your capable and tested leadership, was the one to think of me as is said, 'in the hour of need.'"