

ST. AUGUSTINE

PM ON THE PAN SCENE?

MPs MEET AT BALISIER HOUSE

A DECISION was expected to be reached by government last night on the impasse with Pan Trinbago, the organisation representing steelbandsmen, which is demanding more money for steelbands in this year's Panorama competitions.

Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, it was learned, was to chair a meeting of People's National Movement (PNM) members of both Houses of Parliament at PNM's Balisier House headquarters, Port of Spain.

A source said this year's pan predicament was high on the agenda along with the squatting issue.

Steelbandsmen who want an appearance fee of \$4,000 for each band in the semi finals have, for the first time since the panorama competitions started 15 years ago, got together and boycotted two of the shows.

First to feel the sting were Sunday's contests in San Fernando and Tobago.

Government has countered with a \$500 appearance fee.

Earlier yesterday Education and Culture Minister Dr. Cuthbert Joseph said: "Government has already disclosed its position on the issue and that is where it's at."

But Dr. Joseph gave no indication about last night's meeting nor one carded for today of ministers in the Ministry of Finance to discuss the situation.

Pan Trinbago has said if there is to be a compromise

it must be favourable to panmen — especially those in San Fernando and Tobago who led the way in the boycott.

"But, said Dr. Joseph, "I know nothing about that."

Yesterday panmen met to discuss their boycott plans. Representatives

from the southern and Tobago regions of Pan Trinbago were present.

"We say hats off to them. We want to assure them that if there is any compromise to be made with government, it will be done to facilitate them," stressed Pan Trinbago's vice-president Arnim Smith yesterday.



AERIAL spraying to rid the country of the yellow fever-carrying *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito was on yesterday in the Arima area.

Picture: HUBERT ALEXANDER.