

Panmen accuse Minister Johnson of discrimination

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PAN TRINBAGO yesterday accused the Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture and Creative Arts, Jennifer Johnson, of acts of discrimination against the Steelband Movement, and in a letter to Prime Minister ANR Robinson, said it was withdrawing its representative from the Carnival Advisory Council.

In its letter Pan Trinbago said it was "not prepared to accept token representation or anything short of what the organisation truly deserves," after pointing out that it was a body legally incorporated by an Act of Parliament.

The organisation complained to the Prime Minister that after three request letters, it was only on May 26 that the Minister of Culture met with its Executive, and she did not turn up at four functions — biennial convention, Champs in Concert, Carnival prize distribution, and the radio Call-a-Thon to raise funds for ailing panman, Frank Joseph — although officially invited.

Show Contempt

According to Pan Trinbago, the Minister continues to show contempt for the body by not ap-

pointing one of its representatives to a Commission appointed to set up guidelines for a policy on Culture. Also no representative of Pan Trinbago was appointed to the Interim National Carnival Commission — a policy-making committee. It also pointed out that there was no Pan Trinbago member on the newly appointed Tourist Board.

Pan Trinbago cited the re-

sponse of Education Minister, Clive Pantin, result of which there was a fruitful meeting to have Pan in School become a reality.

While announcing its withdrawal from the Carnival Advisory Council, Pan Trinbago told the Prime Minister it has no intention of co-operating with either of the two Commissions appointed by Minister Johnson.