

Row brews over CDC ban on 'old-time' pans

SOCIAL AFFAIRS REPORTER

A STORM is brewing over the Carnival Development Committee's (CDC) decision to ban "old-time" steel bands from this year's Panorama competition.

Mr. Hugh Borde, leader of the Trinidad Tripoli steelband now on tour of the United States and a former vice-president of the defunct Steelbandsmen Association, said yesterday the banning of "old-time" steelbands are pans which are beaten while slung around the necks of pan beaters.

"is a most dishonest act on the part of the CDC and Pan Trinbago."

He questioned why the decision was not taken before. "Bands" he said, "should have been notified beforehand - it is too late now because bands entering the Panorama show have paid their entrance fees."

Mr. Borde noted that pans around the neck and pans on wheels were both the same, adding that it had always been "a wonderful idea" of showing the tourist how the

steelband originated and from which it had come to its present form.

"This is the type of attraction for the tourists", he went on. People are aroused by this feature which adds a flavour to Panorama, the panman said.

Mr. Borde, who leaves for Chicago United States of America tomorrow to join his band which has a nine-month extended tour of the US said he wanted to know whether the CDC and Pan Trinbago were aware that the "old time" pan beaters practice just

as hard as the regular pan beaters."

Banning of the bands was announced by Mr. Ivan Williams, chairman of the CDC on Monday and after six bands had already registered for the competition. The "old time" bands have been a regular feature of the CDC-sponsored Panorama show.

Mr. Bertie Fraser, president of Pan Trinbago yesterday denied knowledge of the decision.

He made it plain that Panorama was a national competition and all steelbands, regardless of their format were eligible to take part.

The CDC's decision was also condemned by Mr. John Babb, public relations officer of the Vat 19 Tripolians, regarded as the top "old-time" band.

A spokesman for the CDC said that everything would now depend on how many bands entered. He added that it was the intention to create a special category for such bands,