

4 pan officials quit

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during rowdy meeting

FOUR executive officers of Pan Trinbago, including its president, Mr. Roy Augustus resigned their posts at a rowdy covention of the steelbandsmen organisation yesterday.

The verbal resignations highlighted the special meeting at the Port Services Club, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain, during which tempers flared, charges and counter charges flew and some members, in fits of anger, used obscene language.

Other executive members who quit were Mr. Lloyd Henry, assistant secretary; Mr. Bertie Fraser, education officer, and Mr. Vere Greer, a trustee.

Their action came after speakers levelled a number of charges, including the improper state of financial documents dating from 1971 to 1973.

Following the officers' decisions a vote of no-confidence was successfully moved in the remaining five other executive officers.

A surprise

The resignation of Mr. Augustus, 31, a teacher at the Success Village Roman Catholic School, came as a surprise.

It followed an impassioned plea from Mr. Barry Yeates that the executive entertain the motion, originally moved by Mr. George Goddard, during the morning session.

Opening the meeting, Mr. Augustus said that he heard talk that "Roy was going to get pressure at the meeting" and that he would resign.

After attacking certain "dissident" members, Mr. Augustus declared:

"The president will not re-

sign and I am not going to entertain any no-confidence motion. If the executive is to go down we will do so with our gloves on... we will go down fighting."

He said the only two items that would be discussed were the financial statements for 1971-1973, and Pan Trinbago's new constitution.

Mr. Augustus was taken up by several panmen on his opening remarks, and the meeting continued for the day in a tense atmosphere

During the lunch break some of the panmen, because of strong feelings on the 1971-1973 financial statements, of which it was pointed out that an auditor refused "to touch the documents," declined to eat the meal provided by Pan Trinbago.

Mr. George Yeates declared: "That food would not digest. I cannot eat after hearing about the manner in which our money is being taken care of."

George Goddard: "I prefer to face a firing squad than eat that food now."

Shortly after the start of the afternoon session Mr. Barry Yeates told Augustus that he and the rest of the executive should forget their pride and entertain the no-confidence motion.

In an unexpected move, Mr. Augustus got up and in an emotional speech announced his resignation, closely followed by the other three officers.

Two hours later, after more strong words and debate on whether an interim or a permanent executive should be elected, it was decided that the rest of the executive who were earlier removed from office via the no-confidence motion, should continue temporarily.

Mr. Dennis Le Gendre, Vice-President, who heads the interim executive, got the members to agree that another special convention will be held in the next 21 days for election of officers.