

'Arnim should live in South Africa'

By
**BERNARD
LUTCHMAN**

A FORMER CDC man has taken a turn at Arnim Smith, President of Pan Trinidad whom he holds responsible for the mass confusion and frustration at the Junior Carnival Parade on Carnival Saturday.

"Imagine 25,000 little children were suffering in the streets of Port-of-Spain from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Smith was bold enough to make a statement on radio that evening that he was satisfied with the venture of pan into Kiddies Carnival," said Ken Shepherd, a veteran masman.

"Anyone who could make a statement like that should be living in South Africa where they have 8,000 children, aged 8-13 in jail.

"And Smith could be the jailor!"

Shepherd, who left the CDC in 1985 because he found there was too much corruption there, was present when kids started fainting and began to leave the city in frustration that day.

"What I want to ask the CDC is what authority does Pan Trinidad, Arnim Smith and others have with Kiddie's Carnival, on the road?" he continued.

"He was not around when George and Alvin Bailey, Canute Spencer, Mac Baptiste, myself and others of the then CDC asked Eric Williams to give children a day because the kiddies' show was beginning to outgrow other shows like the Jaycees, Lady Beacon, Bishop Anstey Red Cross etc.

"Eric eventually granted the day, and the first year 16 bands came out of the

Princes Building.

"The second year was bigger: 56 bands from Lord Harris Square, and in the third year, 127 bands came out with children from as far away as Cedros leaving Woodford Square.

In those days, Ancil Savary was the man who approached Prince Cumberbatch for the use of DJ music, and it was a complete success.

"Now don't get me wrong," said Shepherd.

"I have nothing against pan since I have been beating from the days of Oval Boys with Ellie Mannette, Ossie Mannette, Begga Boy Francis and Francis Wickham (Oval Boys was the predecessor of Invaders).

"I used to wave flag for Invaders from

SAYS CDC MAN WHO RESIGNED BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION

1945-48 and was involved in Steelband Riots.

"It is against this background that I can tell you that steelband cannot be forced on the children of today. It has to grow on them," commented Shepherd.

He went on to relate an incident during this year's fiasco which took place at the Savannah.

"Two steelbands were beating and four schools were waiting to be called onstage.

"Not even the old folks who grew up on steelband were jumping to the beat, but as soon as Aleong turned on the recorded music, the children just broke away!

"This is what I



KENNETH SHEPHERD

mean..... if they want to bring steelband into Kiddies Carnival, it should be mixed with DJ music and only pan-around the neck on trucks should be allowed for fast mobility.

"I mean, how can Arnim Smith justify the fact that, handi-

capped children from Lady Hochoy's Home were on Park Street at 1.00 p.m. suffering for nearly an hour.

"It was only after the message was relayed to the Savannah that some room was made to move these poor kids through.

Shepherd (no relation to Mirror's Editor Keith Shepherd) said he met a Mayaro Secondary School Principal who left home at 4 a.m., reached Port-of-Spain at 8 a.m. and at 3:10 p.m. he was opposite the Royal Jail on Frederick Street, waiting for almost two hours with no music!

"The majority consensus amongst all the parents that day was that if the Minister

(Jennifer Johnson) made the same mistake next year, she will not have any bands parading in the Junior Carnival," he emphasised.

"Parents were totally fed-up because of children fainting, the frustration and heat.

"Some even went back to their buses without taking part in the parade.

"I do not blame Mrs. Johnson 100 per cent for this chaos because it was thrown in her lap.

"But I am prepared to help her solve any problems for the 1988 season, if my services are needed."

Checks by the Mirror into the confusion which caused the 1987 Panorama to start very late (another cover-up by Smith when interview-



ARNIM SMITH

ed by Jones P. Madeira) revealed that the man in charge of the CDC Sub-committee for Junior Carnival was Roy Augustus, who was relieved of the top steelband post by Arnim Smith a few years ago.

Augustus, a ranking NAR man, should be made aware that culture cannot be forced down anyone's throat in a democratic country..... especially children.

It has to be gradually phased in.

'DJs were not consulted'

SAYS WAX

ONE OF the most popular Disc Jockeys in Trinidad and Tobago has spoken out on the fiasco that took place during the 1987 Junior Carnival show, organised by the CDC.

DJ Wax (formerly Wax People), who has been playing for 20 years as a form of livelihood, has expressed strong disappointment at the way the CDC forced their decision on the nation's DJ's without any form of prior consultation.

The result, as the whole country knows, was the worst Kiddie's Carnival ever.... with no music.

Wax, the resident

DJ at the Chagacabana Hotel, told Mirror that he had been playing for the CDC for many years and, in fact, was one of the founders of this kind of road music for the children.

"But I am very annoyed at the way they (The CDC and Pan Trinidad), just came and said we are doing this.... without any consideration to the DJ's, most of whom play out as a form of self-employment," said Wax

(Clyde Hart).

"It is like if they had no respect for disc jockeys of this country, who are the ones to make our calypsoes popular.

"DJ's (Radio and party) are the first people that the calypsonians go to as soon as they record their music, and we are the ones promoting the culture," Wax stressed.

"What they (the

CDC) should have done is to call in the DJs who worked with them over the past years and work out some kind of compromise.... which is what we are looking for in 1988."

Acknowledging that the Disc Jockey Association has not been functioning for a while, Wax is calling on all the top DJs like Fatman George, Production Sounds, Rocky the Wax

Wizard and others to get back together and get the DJA working again.

"Our survival depends on it," Wax concluded.



**DJ WAX ...
Clyde Hart**



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