

ML 1040

Clarke sees panmen as an example for society

MUSIC
STEEL B

By JOHN ALLEYNE

PRESIDENT Ellis Clarke on Friday night recommended the fine example of "harmony, dedication to duty and cooperation" which was characteristic to steelbandmen for all segments of the society, "private sector, public sector, Government, labour and people."

He said he was enthralled at Queen's Hall, Port-of-Spain recently at a concert in which Catelli All Stars Steel Orchestra performed, and while he felt there would have been disharmony with each trying to out-do the other, "I found on the contrary a most cooperative display of maximum harmony for two and a half hours.

"That feast was at Queen's Hall, it should have been at Albert Hall, London," he said.

President Clarke, who was addressing the annual Christmas dinner/cabaret of the southern and central divisions of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the Trintoc Pointe-a-Pierre Club, said that "for a small country like ours, there is far too much disharmony, far too many instances of each one trying to out-do the other, and by far not nearly sufficient cooperation and dedication to duty.

"I am convinced, as I have always said, that here in our little country we have all the elements for disaster. We do also have all the elements for survival, and I am satisfied also that if we can give true manifestation and meaning to the ideals of real harmony, cooperation and dedication to duty, we shall undoubtedly survive."

He said that at the Queen's Hall concert to which he referred one very successful businessman and an equally successful medical practitioner left before the final curtain, because each said "These fellows work much harder than I do" and the doctor said "I am going home to work right now."

President Clarke explained: "To achieve that measure of harmony and excellence as demonstrated by the steelbandmen, people who have no formal musical training and preparation, must require a tremendous amount of memorising, must require days and days of constant practice, with practice sessions that run well unto 2 o'clock in the morning. And you know that the steelbandmen are up bright and early heading for the normal day's work and back in the afternoon for more and more practice sessions. I have always taken tremendous delight and pride whenever I see them on show.

ACHIEVEMENTS

"I believe," President Clarke said, "if we put heart and soul into what we are doing and cooperate with all other persons involved it is bound to be for the good of all."

He drew reference to the substantial achievements and advancement of the Chamber and "what this Chamber has done tonight, and I say I was not surprised to hear that the Chamber participates in a great variety of things because from what I have seen, I think its scope is really tremendous for bringing about a better Trinidad and Tobago."

He said he had listened to the admonition of the division's president, Tyrone Samlalsingh, in his welcome in which he called upon "the private sector, public sector, Government and labour to work closer together in 1986 for a better Trinidad and Tobago and I do wish most heartily to endorse that appeal because herein lies the challenge to enable one to lead a better, fuller and more satisfying life."

The large audience included Errol Mahabir, Minister of External Affairs and Mrs. Mahabir; San Fernando Mayor Councillor Rakeeb Hosein and Mrs. Hosein; Walton James, Managing Director of Trintoc and Mrs. James, executive committee members of the division and their wives, and a number of leading personalities in business and industry.