

Call for college to teach pan music



MR. GODDARD

They want to get me out—Goddard

MR. GEORGE GODDARD, President of the National Association of Steelbandsmen, yesterday accused the Prime Minister and other members "on the Government side of attempts to oust me from this office."

Mr. Goddard was speaking at the morning session of the annual general meeting of the association which held its election of officers for a new term during the afternoon session.

Mr. Goddard said: "I do not want to be re-elected. But if you do not re-elect me, it will not be the steelband movement that will be destroyed. History will be destroyed, and history must not be destroyed."

"If I am re-elected, steelbandsmen will have to take part in everything — politics, youth movement and tourism."

Mr. Goddard asked Mr. Aldwyn Primus, leader of the Black Panthers' Movement, to leave the meeting which he did.

"You are not a registered member of the association, and therefore, I ask you, Mr. Primus to leave this meeting now," Mr. Goddard ordered.

PRESIDENT of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress Mr. Nathaniel Critchlow, yesterday called for the establishment of a college for the teaching of pan music.

Mr. Critchlow was delivering the feature address to steelbandsmen at the general meeting of the National Association of Steelbandsmen at the Catholic Centre, Jerningham Avenue, Belmont.

Government, Mr. Critchlow said, had not done sufficient for the steelband.

"In this period of reconstruction," Mr. Critchlow said, "the steelband should receive prominent and special attention. It is not sufficient to produce instruments for export. There should be established a college for the teaching of this type of music especially."

Mr. Critchlow said that the college should be organised in such a way so as to attract people from other countries to enroll for courses.

He added that the experts on the steelband should not be forced through economic necessity to migrate to foreign lands to sell their talent to other people.

"At this College, employment can be found for top tuners, who may not only be teachers in the art of playing the instruments, but also teachers in the art of tuning the instruments," Mr. Critchlow said.

Small fee

The teachers can act as technicians at the disposal of unit bands of the association, he added.

"These bands I am sure will be willing to pay a small fee for tuning services and this fee can be used to offset part, at least, of the expenses of the college," he said.

Mr. Critchlow said that as such Government would not be made to carry the college 100 per cent.

"This to my mind," he went on, "is a far better national investment than many of these industries now granted pioneer status at public expense."

Mr. Critchlow said the steelband has undoubtedly earned the respect and admiration of the people.

"And I note with pleasure a fact that Government has shown willingness to render some measure of assistance."