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# \$120,000 voted for research on pan

By JOHN BABB

CABINET yesterday agreed to the establishment of a Steelband Research Council, and allocated \$120,000 for research on the steel pan.

It also agreed to make \$200,000 available to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to provide assistance to the Co-operative Movement. The Organisation of Co-operatives of America is to be asked to assist in arranging a four-week Residential Management Training Course in Co-operative Movement.

The course will be carried out by officials of the Training Centre of the University of Wisconsin, USA.

The proposed Steelband Research Council, when established will comprise the president of the Steelbands' Association as chairman; representatives of the University of the West Indies, the private sector, the Industrial Development Corporation, and accomplished musicians.

The Council will be required to conduct applied research in:

- \* The techniques for the manufacture of steel musical pans;

- \* The use of metals and alloys other than steel by pressing, stamping, casting and otherwise for the production of musical pans;

- \* The feasibility of reproducing steelband sounds by means of compact electronic devices —not recording devices;

\* The market projects for the sale and use of such instruments in Trinidad especially among young people. Also in the Caribbean, North America, Venezuela and Western Europe.

Engagement of outstanding pan tuners and assistants on a full time basis will also form part of the research programme.

## Demanded grant

Only on Wednesday it was decided during talks between the National Joint Action Committee and officials of the Steelbands' Association to ask Government for an annual grant of not less than \$250,000 for development of the steelbands.

The \$200,000 being made available to assist the Co-operative Movement is part of the \$500,000 allocated for the Movement in the Third Five-Year Plan.

The money will go towards accelerating the development of Co-operatives by providing educational, financial and administrative assistance in the form of training and education in Co-operative principles, management and operation.

The proposed four-week Residential Management Training Course in co-operative management, will cost \$7,000. This sum will be met from the allocation for 1970 from the overall provision of funds in the Third Five-Year Development Plan.