

Those old time steelbands not banned after all

OLE TIME Carnival steelbands will not be banned from taking part in this year's Panorama competition after all. This announcement was made by Mr. Prince Cumberbatch, Secretary of the Carnival Development Committee (CDC), this morning.

Mr. Cumberbatch said: "The CDC never at any time took any decision to keep the ole time steelbands out of the competition.

"If the CDC at any time had taken such a decision, they would have discussed

the matter with the Executive Committee of the steelband body, Pan Trinbago, long in advance and an official statement both from the CDC and Pan Trinbago would have been sent out to the respective bands," said Mr. Cumberbatch.

He added: "The issue of the ole time steelbands not being permitted to take part in the competition this year was made in 'jest' by CDC Chairman, Mr. Ivan Williams, when he was speaking to a group of newsmen recently.

"We, the members of the CDC are conscious of the fact that the ole time steel-

bands are the pioneers of pan music and will at no time object to such bands taking part in the competition," he said.

He noted however, that in the future, perhaps, thoughts might be given to have a separate competition for these bands if the panmen so desire.

"The competition is being judged on music not the panmen or whether they come to the competition with pans on wheels or pans around their necks," he said.