

The steelband talks at Chag

Jobs, legal protection for T'dad panmen

By STEPHEN MOHAMMED,
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PANMEN's dreams for the establishment of a pan factory, the setting-up of training courses in management, legal protection and, above all, employment opportunities, are all to become realities.

These were among ten points of agree-

ment which were reached at the three-day National Consultation on the Steelband which ended at Chaguaramas Convention Centre, yesterday.

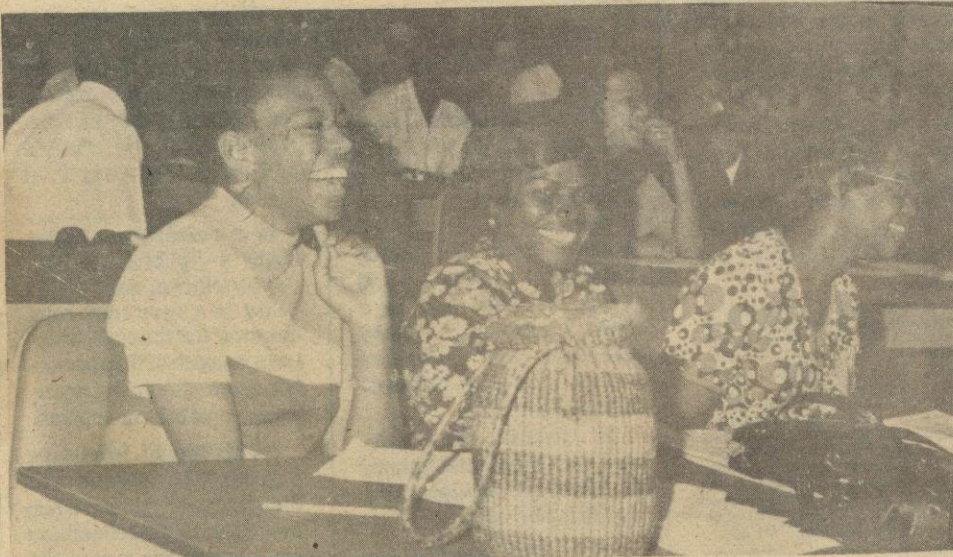
And Cabinet is expected to take "positive and concrete action" on them at its regular meetings next week Thursday and on February 15. Other recommendations, proposals and ideas agreed to at the Consultation will also be given serious consideration by Cabinet.

Panmen and interested parties have been given extra time - up to Tuesday - to submit further comments.

Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams,

chairman of the Consultation, in winding it up, announced that the Tripartite Committee on sponsorship will meet at Whitehall at 2p.m. on Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Mr. Eugenio Moore, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning and Development.

The Carnival Development Committee has been directed to meet representatives of Pan Trinbago at 4p.m. today to discuss the question of transportation for steelbandmen.



Delegates in gay mood

THE National Consultation on the Steelband was not without its humorous moments. A few speakers had both the chairman, Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, members of his Cabinet and participants in fits of laughter, with some of their remarks.

Like steelband member, John McCann, who told Dr. Williams: "You know psychology ... I know it too. Only thing you have a degree and I have none..."

And again he told Dr. Williams: "This will be the last you will be hearing from me. But you will be seeing me always." Then there was the time he declared, after making some

heated comments: "I see the chairman may find that now is the time I must sit down and shut up..."

DR. WILLIAMS: "I haven't thought about that yet! (laughter).

MCCANN: "So you digging me now." (more laughter).

This picture, shows one of those funny occasions. From left to right: Diana McIntyre Music Officer Ministry of Education and Culture, Merle Albino, music director/arranger of Savoy's Steel Orchestra and Jocelyn Pierre arranger of Nu Tone Steelband of Arima.

(PHOTO BY SAM BITU).



The Prime Minister and the Attorney-General, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips will meet Pan Trinbago officials and others concerned with other art forms to start preparing the groundwork for the legal protection of the artiste and his product.

This meeting will take place at Whitehall next week Thursday at 2 p.m.

The Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister has until tomorrow to put up proposals for training courses in management for steelbandmen.

Further comments on this must also reach Whitehall by Tuesday.

LEADERS: FULFIL PROMISES

A WARNING went out to government yesterday as the National Consultation on the Steelband ended at Chaguaramas.

It came from Mr. Roy Augustus, president of Pan Trinbago, the national body of steelbandmen, who declared: "My executive is committed to clinging like barnacles to the relevant government agencies to ensure that everything we have been promised over the past few days comes to fruition".

He told the Consultation's chairman, Dr. Eric Williams: "We will not relax the pressure until the

goals set at this consultation are achieved".

Mr. Augustus, in delivering the vote of thanks on behalf of panmen, said: "We have told you what we wanted. The only problem is whether we are actually

going to get what we asked for".

He said the training course must begin immediately and the panfactory steelband co-operative and complex must also be gone into right away.

Among those he thanked heartily was "that bunch of hardworking, but sometimes harshly criticised individuals - the Press - for their impartial coverage of the entire consultation".

FACTORY UNDER STUDY

A Cabinet-appointed committee at the Consultation on the Steelband has recommended that the Industrial Development Corporation undertake a feasibility study on the establishment of a pan factory.

This factory will have as its major products steelband instruments and associated equipment.

The committee, headed by Professor Ken

Julien, has further agreed that such a study should be carried out on a full-time professional basis, utilising assistance from the Faculty of Engineering at UWI.

It should also employ, where considered desirable, tuners in a consultant capacity. The committee viewed this as the only way in which the study could be completed with "the urgency that is desirable".