

EDITORIAL

BUILD THE REGIONS

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS the steelband movement has done a lot in terms of projecting to the general public a new image of Pan Trinbago. People now recognise our organisation as talented, well organised and hard working. All this is very well and good, but there are other areas in which we as a steelband organisation are definitely lacking. And it is to these areas that we must now seriously address ourselves.

BUILD THE LINK!

One of the areas most in need of our attention and our efforts is the regions. Pan Trinbago has never been in a position where we could claim that our regions were fully functional. What this means is that the link between the Central Executive and the individual bands would necessarily be weak. The link would be weak in two ways. Many bands would be unaware of what is being done at the level of the Central Executive, and on the other hand the Central Executive would be unaware of the problems that many individual bands are facing.

Then too, we must remember that through self reliance there are many problems which can be tackled at the regional level, thereby increasing the over-all strength of our Organisation. The strength of Pan Trinbago depends on the strength of the regions.

BUILD DEMOCRACY

Pan Trinbago as an Organisation, on a daily basis has to make representation on behalf of its members. It is only fitting that members should have a direct say in whatever positions are taken. Whenever members take an active part in arriving at decisions, then one can be sure that they will fully back up the decisions. In other words Pan Trinbago will be operating on a democratic footing. But without the regions' active participation not enough member bands really participate in decision making.

UNITY IS STRENGTH

Finally we should note the fact that in Trinidad and Tobago at present there are over 120 bands in existence. By far the vast majority of these bands are poor bands. Within the framework of Panorama, these bands can achieve limited success. When it is a case of "Every man see for himself" the lucky few tend to make the grade and the unlucky majority have to suffer. If however bands come together at a regional level, there are several basic problems which can be tackled and solved by a collective effort.

LET US BUILD THE REGIONS.

LET US BUILD REAL DEMOCRACY FOR A STRONGER PAN TRINBAGO AND A STRONGER STEELBAND MOVEMENT

SILVER HARPS

A RAY OF HOPE FOR SMALL BANDS

SILVER HARPS is a small unsponsored steelband from Salazar Trace, Point Fortin. For the past two years this band has been defeating the "big band syndrome" in the panorama and have successfully made it through to the semi-finals of the 1980 Music Festival and the finals of the panorama '80 and 1981.

The band was founded in Cedros in 1965. Up to 1972 the band struggled under all sorts of hardships to survive in this remote area. It eventually became necessary that it be moved to Point Fortin. At their new location the band continued to struggle on in a delapidated tent which up to today is not worthy of the talent and skill it houses. The burden laid heavily on the shoulders of Kenrick Permel the captain and tuner and Dudley Nesbit an ex-Invasers pan man who joined the band in 1970 and has been arranging ever since. The band was still able to accomplish two major achievements during their early self reliant march towards national acclaim. In 1972 they won the 'C' category of the steelband music festival. In 1973 they took the coveted title of best beating un sponsored band in the panorama.

Like so many other community efforts unsponsored steelbands like Silver Harps was literally cracking up during that period of stagnation of steelbands in "Panland". Yet they continued to show great courage and determination and made that annual journey to

Port of Spain to "ease" their frustration in the national steelband competition. They took every defeat in stride and went back to Salazar Trace to "come again", each year their salient feature being their hundreds of supporters who vociferously expressed their love for their band. Yes! the whole community shared in every defeat and fittingly in the glory of the 1980 Panorama.

1980 PANORAMA

In the 1980 panorama competition Silver Harps took panland "by storm" It was the year when the "bigger guns" were really shooting but the 65 man band from Salazar Trace really made their presence felt. Playing Sparrow's "London Bridge" they had San Fernando jumping and went on to capture the hearts of pan lovers in the savannah eventually placing 12th in the finals. They came back in 1981 to confirm the fact that they were here to stay. Playing Kitchener's "Mo Pan" arranged by Dudley Nesbit with assistance from ace musician Raff Robertson, they placed second in the South finals and went on to capture the 8th place in the National finals.

Many a term has been used to describe the efforts of the Silver Harps. "A ray of hope for small bands", an excited supporter exclaimed in the Savannah Silver Harps have come a long way and now all pan lovers should stand in full acclaim to them for their grand accomplishments.

NOTICE!

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