

Shameless outsiders attempt to control Pan Trinbago

WITHOUT blowing our own trumpets, we are confident that panmen are well aware as to who have been the major contributors to this great revival of steelband that has begun over the past seven years. Panmen know who the talkers and who the work-horses are. Panmen must know where the ideas have come from.

We have chosen, quite contentedly, to play a low profile in the background with the President, Mr. Arnim Smith, as spokesman for the entire leadership.

But we are convinced that we have served as promised and we have served well. We dare anyone to examine the record of our service and come up with any other conclusion.

ENEMIES OF PAN

The question remains therefore, why, if all we have described above is true, is there a crisis in the leadership of Pan Trinbago today?

What has brought about this bitter disunity, after seven years of total and exemplary unity? What has brought about this situation where officers who for seven long years, defended and protected each other, today calling for the destruction of other officers?

Who or what is behind this effort to destroy the work of the new leadership to divide and discredit

NESTOR Sullivan, vice-president since 1979 and Andre Moses, education officer, tell why they resigned from the national steelband body.

our proud organisation?

We submit the following as answers to these grievous questions.

As we have said, when Pan Trinbago was weak, disunited and without respect, the politicians made a mas with us. Now that we have emerged as a strong and powerful, respected organisation, our value to them is much greater.

The General Elections in our country is coming soon and we believe that our organisation is one of the first victims of the mad scramble for power by these politicians.

Before 1978, Pan Trinbago used to be PNM dominated. Our independent line solved this problem. Today, however, the greater danger is the conspiracies of the opposition (in particular the Organisation for National Reconstruction — the ONR), who already have a toe-hold in the organisation; to move to gain complete political control.

We have a lot of respect for many panmen who subscribe to the views of this organisation. But we want to say loud and clear to these members — to have political views is good, but to submit panmen's interest to the interest of these opportunist

politicians again, is a grave mistake we will live to regret.

We have seen the minions of the ONR, none of them panmen, or interested in pan, hanging around our office recently, confidently, expecting the takeover to come. It is they, more than anyone else, who call for the kicking out of the "communists!" It is they who sit and plan to disrupt the work of our organisation.

CLIQUE OF SNEEZERS

The other contributor to this crisis in the leadership of our organisation is a small clique of former leaders and hangers-on from the old leadership pre 1978.

The first few years of the new leadership, saw these individuals attending meetings with the sole purpose of disrupting our affairs and causing mischief. They ran to the Press every-so-often, with articles of self-praise and criticism of the new executive.

There were one or two who got in on the first executive of the new era and whose only contribution was to find themselves at the door collecting tickets or money for every func-

tion we organised.

They disappeared once the new leadership got going and they were exposed and discredited. But they never overcame their jealousy and their designs on the funds of the association.

They continued in the dark shadows, and by rumour-mongering, to sew disunity to put doubt in the minds of panmen and to create discord with a view of returning to power in the organisation. They believe that their day has come. They are the ones who also call loudly for the "Special Convention" to kick out the "Communists."

POWER AND MONEY

It is our view therefore, that what we are witnessing is this so-called crisis in the leadership of Pan Trinbago is a crude and shameless attempt to control the organisation by forces, in the main, outside the steelband movement.

We have great difficulty in recognising some people with whom we

have worked closely for seven long years. So complete is the manipulation of these outside forces.

The game now is Control, Power, and Money!!!

There are forces outside there who just cannot accept that people entrusted in leadership can handle \$40,000 (for Champs in Concert), have stacked away hundreds of thousands of dollars (for Pan Headquarters and the Pan Factory), receive a yearly \$90,000 (that panmen have sacrificed through the levy) and not touch a cent for themselves.

These people are dying to take us back to the pre-1978 dark ages of the Fraud Squad interventions and put their fingers on this bread.

The politicians relish the idea of the power they will gain with complete control of Pan Trinbago in time for the General Elections.

We attempted many times, to solve our problems at the level of the executive, through open, frank and genuine discussions in the interest of the steelband movement.