

# HARMONITES TO

EXPRESS REPORTER

FORMER Panorama champions Solo Harmonites will not be taking part in the competition next year, the band's arranger Earl "Bostic" Rodney disclosed yesterday.

Rodney explained that the band was simply going to take a rest from competitions.

He stressed that this had nothing to do with their coming third in the competition this year and that the band accepted the judge's decision.

Rodney added: "We have won the competition three times, not including the 'Is Paris Burning' test piece in 1967, and

we have always been in the finals. We are taking a breather."

Rodney who also arranges for Sparrow and, at times for Lord Kitchener, stated that he felt that the judges generally did a good job but he was convinced that the competition centred around the big name bands.

# SKIP '74

# PANORAMA

He added that although this included his band he believed that they always played well enough to be in the finals.

He went on: "There are a lot of small bands from outside the city - who play very well in the preliminaries but they don't get into the semi-finals. A lot of people complain about this and it is true."

Rodney, whose band played King Wellington's "Steel and Brass" in the semi-finals and finals after their rendition of Sparrow's "My Connie" in the preliminaries, was knocked by the critics.

He disclosed that they had refrained from playing Sparrow tunes since 1970 because they felt that there was a jinx attached to the calypsoes.

The band shared the title with CIBC Starlift in 1971 and retained it last year.