

What if panmen stage a 'beat-to-rule'?

By AINSLEY
SAHAI

IT WAS during the Southern Panorama preliminaries on Sunday at Skinner Park, loud and clear came the announcement over the public address system, "WASA Silvertones, please move up."

It was repeated twice. Then it struck me that with the present industrial climate in the country, what would have happened had Silvertones copied last year's action of some of the employees of their sponsors, WASA and gone on a "go slow."

That would have been a new type of "pandustrial" action which might have seen a panman making a stroke with his right hand and following up with the left hand stroke some five minutes later. Of course with 80 or so panmen one can well imagine the result. And to compound matters the helpers will take their own sweet time to push and pull pans. Then with flagmen "withdrawing enthusiasm" who would have waved the flags resulting in the entire picture being one real ole mas.

The judges dare not take action. Or else it



a "Beat to Rule" panmen will take their own sweet time to play a selection.

could lead to a "pan out" or to "beat-to-rule". Then the panmen would have to call in the OWTU Free French to negotiate. And once the OWTU becomes involved chances are that other bands, whose sponsors have industrial agreements with the OWTU would go down in sympathy

"Down sticks,"

That would have meant that the Texaco sponsored steelbands, West Stars Deltones and Rhapsody as well as Trintoc Sun Valley and Trinidad Tesoro Third World would have had to "down sticks". So too Fedchem Synconites

T&TEC Motown, Dunlop Tornadoes and Damus Organettes. AMOCO Radix Steel Orchestra is out of that because AMOCO men are not unionised.

And heavens know what would have happened should a sugar union decide to support their oil brothers. It would have meant that the Caroni-sponsored Golden Glow Tropical Melodians would also not be playing music.

But one band that would not have joined in the "pandustrial" action is Trinidad Lake Asphalt Euphonics. Why? Because the Contractors and General Workers' Trade Union, which represents

TLA workers is headed by Owen Hinds, well known San Fernando mas' man. And Mr. Hinds would not want to disrupt proceedings.

That might have led to pandemonium and that is where Ju-C Antilleans

and Stag Fonclaire would have had to step in to assist in cooling tempers. And should a fight have broken out then those insured might have been able to claim compensation and that is where

Maritime Life Hatters would have come in.

Fortunately, however, pan is pan, and mas' is mas' and where they are there is place only for feteing. Not industrial disputes.