

FOREIGN TOURS

AT OUR recently concluded convention held on the weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, 1980, a mandate was given to the Executive in pursuance of a course "Towards a National Policy on Pan." Among the papers presented in our Convention document was one concerning foreign tours, based on our experience with the Catelli Trinidad All Stars tour in particular. Proposals were sent to the Minister in the Ministry of Finance dated 17th December, 1980 indicating areas of concern as regards future tours with particular reference to the Mt. Irvine Buccooneers tour to North America later this year.

PROPOSALS

Listed below were the points raised in the letter which were discussed at a subsequent meeting, held on Tuesday 24th February, 1981. Present at this meeting were representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; The Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board and Pan Trinbago.

- Points discussed were:-
1. Purpose of tour.
 2. Countries to be visited.
 3. The band's itinerary whilst on tour.
 4. Terms of reference in relation to officials on the tour.
 5. Information on board, and lodge whilst on tour.
 6. Venues for rehearsals.
 7. Internal transport for members and instruments.
 8. Salary for members.
 9. Leave for the members who are employed.

THE MEETING

A representative of the Trinidad & Tobago Tourist Board chaired the meeting.

In the ensuing discussions, it was stated that, Angostura Distillers Ltd. in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board's office in New York are to promote an exhibition, which

will accompany the troupe comprising of the Best Village winners and the steelband. This tour will last from the 4th to 24th June, 1981. The group will travel to Chicago via New York where the main performance will take place. This tour will be conducted in two phases. (1) The Mt. Irvine Buccooneers tour to begin on the date as mentioned above, and a tour to Canada between July and early August for the Panorama Champions. It was also stated that Wayne Berkley, will be the producer of the exhibition.

Matters such as the itinerary of the tour and information on board and lodge, venues for rehearsals and internal transportation for instruments and members will be handled by the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board. Terms of reference in relation to the officials on tour, salaries for the performers, leave of absence from work and other arrangements are dependent on government's final approval. Pan Trinbago insists that this tour must have an educational perspective. In presenting the Art and Culture of Trinidad and Tobago on the international scene, records, buttons, tapes, etc., must be some of the promotional material accompanying the artists.

The band ought to have a balanced repertoire of music and should have a professional presentation which should include lecture demonstrations and individual performances. It was also noted that there should be a photographer, video tapes of the steelband and Trinidad and Tobago. It was stressed also that there should be video tapings of the bands' touring party's performances for our archives and future reference and it was agreed that the Tourist Board's office in New York will handle this matter.

PAN TRINBAGO

Pan Trinbago in its efforts to establish a national policy on pan realises that in former times, steelbandmen and other artists left these

shores to go on tours only to be exploited and embarrassed in the process. What we have realised also is that in so doing no real links were established at the international level, whereby bands leaving these shores will have some effective form of protection and support. It is a fact that contracts in some cases are never signed and those that are signed are never really in the interest of the artiste. Matters such as board and lodge, travelling, engagements, rates and conditions under which one has to perform were never made clear, so it became inevitable that these tours would fail, both economically, educationally and otherwise. In so doing it frustrates members and the automatic crash of the band follows with members going their separate ways, they sometimes even sell their instruments. Few steelbands that have left these shores can boast of not experiencing such problems. In some cases the leader or manager takes all the money or something of the sort.

Hence the reason we are saying that there must be an established policy, so as to ensure that bands going on tours in the future are protected

against these difficulties. Take for instance the recent tour of the Catelli Trinidad All Stars, what was the criteria used in arriving at payments for the men? The criteria used in respect to All Stars, will be the same to be used for "Buccooneers". But is there any established tariff in relation to rates, terms and conditions under which these musicians are to operate? It is important then for us to understand that the responsibility is ours, to pursue the course of establishing positive rates and conditions in the process of formulating a general policy on tours. Unity and co-operation is vital in this respect. Steelbands should not leave these shores, unless proper contracts are signed and all documents relevant to the tour lodged at the office of Pan Trinbago and related government Ministries. Pan Trinbago should participate in all discussions preceding signing of any contract and should assist in providing legal advice whenever it is necessary. We feel that we must be consistent in our approach towards achieving our objectives. But this cannot be done without the support of the general membership.

NOTICE!

CALLING ALL TUNERS,
ARRANGERS AND CAPTAINS.

LOOK FOR THE TUNERS
CONVENTION IN MAY.

THE EXACT DATE WILL
SOON BE ANNOUNCED.

Panorama-a post-mortem

*FROM PAGE 3

the money allocated. We do not believe that panmen can endure the contempt and inefficient ways of this gentleman for much longer.

JUDGES

Our review of the panorama would surely be incomplete without expressing our thanks to the judges for a job well done under rather trying circumstances. We feel

however that there is a need for the judges to come together not only at carnival time but at other instances during the year when they will be in a position to explain in more detail to panmen the meaning of the various criteria and they themselves may arrive at a more uniform interpretation of these criteria. Toward this end Pan Trinbago intends to host some sort of workshop session at some point of time well in advance of the 1982 Panorama.