

Despers and unity

SIR : This is an open letter to Mr. Rudolph Charles, captain of the WITCO Gay Desperadoes.

First of all, Mr. Charles, let me explain my position — I am not a supporter of the executive of PAN TRINBAGO; I am a supporter of unity and this is what I wish to see among the steelbandmen of Trinidad and Tobago.

If reports appearing in the Press were true, then you misrepresented the resolution taken by PAN TRINBAGO when you were quoted as having said that the decision taken was to boycott Panorama and not Carnival.

You were also quoted as saying that Despers did what many more steelbands wanted to do but did not have the courage to.

Lot of support

This suggests that you had quite a lot of support and that you could have done what I consider the proper thing, i.e. summon a special meeting of Pan Trinbago. have a vote of no confidence passed against the present executive and move on to new elections

With your support you may have won — this, too, Mr. Charles is democracy and may have preserved the unity of which I spoke above.

If it did not, then, it is my feeling that it would have been better to have the split in this manner than

An honest welcome

SIR: I am being very honest as I say to your newspaper, "Welcome Back." Like the calypsonian Relator, I am biased towards the grassroots members of our society, however. There is a saying that "you never miss the water till the well runs dry" and this is one of the reasons, I assume, that Lord Relator

how it has come about.

Now, on to another matter. It was reported that one of your grouses with Pan Trinbago was the political atmosphere which prevailed there. I hope that you are not so naive as to think that what you did (or was influenced to do) on Carnival Tuesday was not political.

It gave Dr. Cuthbert Joseph an opportunity to make one of the best political speeches in his career to a much wider audience than he can ever hope to capture again. The manner in which he seized upon the opportunity makes one wonder whether or not it was planned.

Finally, the reasons you put forward for coming to the savannah and playing mas' are extremely weak. I will handle this by referring you to Kitchener's 'Tell Them Judges' of 1975 in which he suggests that you 'Bypass the Savannah, straighten up into St. Clair, through St. James into Wrightson Road, Back Marine Square'.

Kitchener's route

You and your Laventille community to whom you are contracted could have played a lot of mas' if you had taken Lord Kitchener's route.

I sit back now and wait to see how many more steelbands will follow your lead and leave Pan Trinbago; then, the birth of a

fact practise autocracy. They have vested interests but attempts to hoodwink the grassroots with their rhetoric.

Of course that is all in politics. I myself scorn the idea of being a practising politician, but as Aristotle pointed out, we are political animals. He also said that we are rational beings. In

rival steelband organisations, a new leader.

My last hope is that you, Rudolph Charles and WITCO Desperadoes, were not political pawns but that the courage to do what you did on Carnival Tuesday came from within because it is only then that you can live with the consequences.

Best wishes to you and others on your new move.

NEVILLE JOSEPH
Port-of-Spain.

Plain truth

SIR : Nearly everyday we read or hear of statements by one or another person to the effect that businessmen are using the docks as a warehouse.

We, however, believe this to be totally untrue, as we are sure that a businessman does not make a profit by leaving his shipments on the docks. A profit can only be realised when the goods have been cleared, sold and paid for by the customer.

We, therefore, wish to draw your attention to a shipment addressed to our company from Nicholas Laboratories Ltd., which arrived on the vessel "URANUS 1, on 2nd October, 1978 — Container "CGMU-401642-0, Bill of Lading No. 8, and of which we could not obtain delivery until 15th November.

Our Duty Entry was prepared and duty paid on 13th October, and since that date we made applications nearly every day, with the same answer forthcoming, i.e. "Container not yet unstuffed!"

We draw this experience to your attention, which we can assure you is not our only experience, and we are quite sure that many other firms are similarly affected.

ALFRED TELFER &
COMPANY LIMITED.
Barataria.