

Will The Operation Britain

Succeed?

"HEADLINES OF TOMORROW?"

The time has come for some plain speaking about the drive, called "Operation Britain" and TASPO, Orchestra. Will "Operation Britain" succeed? Will TASPO leave Trinidad for the Festival by the San Mateo in early July? I say Yes! And Why?

Too many people want this project to succeed; it has gone too far along the road of success to fail. As a matter of fact, it is true to say that no one wants it to fail.

Because, as His Excellency rightly said in his message "the people of Trinidad take great pride in being pioneers of the Steel Band movement" and "it is only fitting that, if a Steel Band from the British Caribbean is to go to Britain during the Festival year, this band should emanate from Trinidad."

Indeed, this is an undertaking that must commend itself to every self-respecting Trinidadian and we appeal to each and everyone, men, women and children, as Trinidadians, as members of the Trinidad community. Say what you like, whoever you are, there are certain things, some experiences, a few institutions that we hold and enjoy in common (not even as West Indians but) as Trinidadians. Each, perhaps in his own way but, all the same, together. Calypso, Carnival and "Steel" are among such institutions.

It is Trinidad as a whole that will reap the harvest of Taspo's success abroad—"Breathes there a man with soul so dead, Who never to himself has said, This is my own, my native land", "La Trinite, peyi moen omen."

Exactly what is bottling up our enthusiasm for this patriotic venture? Is it in vain that the patron of the Steel Bands Association, the Hon. P. M. Renison, has said: "We have to do it somehow?"

We have to get that moulah as Mr. Minshall put it, those 15,000 little bits of blue paper. So far we have got as much as 7,500. Half. But from less than 2,000 people. Are there only 2,000 generous, warm-hearted, public-spirited, patriotic citizens among the 600,000 people in Trinidad?

Are there only 2,000 Trinidadians, only 2,000 real, true creoles who 'feel' TASPO?

If the Steel Band and its music does not prick our patriotic nerve well. . . . We of the "Operation Britain Action Committee" just have not got the organisation and the personnel to come all the way to you to get that contribution you are holding to invest in TASPO? We have tried to meet you half way. May be we have not done enough. But believe me, we have done all we can and with very limited resources. Our campaign headquarters is No. 41 St. Vincent Street, our telephone number 4029. Collection boxes are at Casablanca Cafe, St. Vincent Street, Tanwing's Drugstore and Alexis Bros. on Trazarete Road. Austin's Drugstore at Western Main Road, St. James, Ross' Park Street Dispensary. Glass jars are at Alphonso B. de Lima's.

What about it, reader? If you have not yet contributed, why not go now and put that donation aside and place it inside one of these jars or boxes today, yes, today. Or, if you prefer, send it



to or leave it at No. 41 St. Vincent Street, Port-of-Spain.

If you have already donated, we won't ask you to give again, but will you help us by getting others to give? your family, your friends, the members of your staff at work, the workers in your department, your fellow traveller in the bus, your fellow citizen in the street.

My dear reader, you do not need me to tell you that this project is worth your support, your financial support. That is very nearly the only kind of help that is really going to count at this stage except you are going to enlist and become collector as well. TASPO needs your

Orchestra and as such will always be able to play calypso as no other orchestra in the world can.

TASPO is under the direction of one of the most capable and versatile musicians that the West Indies has produced, Lt. N. Joseph Griffith.

TASPO has had the benefit of the best advice as to what type of music it should play in England. Edric Connor, at the invitation of the committee, advised what its fare at the Festival should include "keep the major part of the programme West Indian in content i.e. Calypsoes,

to think—"that is steel band music."

There is really no such thing as "steel band music." It is the steel band interpretation of calypso music that makes that irresistible appeal. In other words, it is the steel band plus calypso or calypso tempo. Take away calypso or calypso tempo and there goes the appeal. Take away steel band and the appeal in its essentials remains as your experience with John Williams or Buddy McClean will tell you.

Yes, as I was saying, TASPO is a Steel Orchestra that can play any piece of popular music be it waltz, rumba or calypso that is written and arranged within a certain compass of notes, a range that is fuller and wider than any steel band in Trinidad has ever used.

If you do not believe me, if you cannot agree with me come and hear TASPO on stage. One demonstration will convince you that Trinidad ought to do its duty to the wider world of music outside the Caribbean by sending TASPO to the Festival of Britain.

Then let us wait and hear the critics in England and on the Continent. Let us listen in to TASPO on the BBC. For this once I will be prepared to stake 'big moulah' (wish I had it) as I have staked my time and human energy ever since I was appointed a member of the Government Steel Bands Committee.

The chairman of "Operation Britain" Action Committee has said "Time is our only enemy." But I renew my resolution, in the words of His Excellency, that "if a Steel Band from the British Caribbean is to go to Britain during the Festival year, this band should emanate from Trinidad." And I rejoice anew because of the fathomless faith and lion-hearted courage of the Hon. P. M. Renison when he says: "We have to do it somehow."

But I do not believe that Time at any time is any enemy to Trinidadians who have a knack of waking up just in time not to be too late. No! We Trinidadians are a spontaneous people. At this stage of our development, it may well be that temperamentally and psychologically we are not so well suited for a sustained bombardment as for a sudden blitz. To borrow an analogy from weight-lifting, we are better at the "clean-jerk" than at the 'press'. I believe that Gerry Gomez put his finger to the powder-keg of success when he said at a committee meeting "You know, Trinidad has a way of doing things AT THE LAST MINUTE." And Gerry knows his fellow Trinidadian, doesn't he?

Well, what about it reader? Will TASPO leave Trinidad by the San Mateo in early July for the Festival of Britain? Moulah and more moulah alone will decide. It is now or never.

Lennox Pierre Says Yes

held, your cash, now, today, not tomorrow, this week, not week-after, this month-end, not the next.

TASPO is helping itself by giving public performances. But public performances cannot fetch the remaining \$7,500 in time. And, if you will forgive me, paying an entrance fee to hear TASPO can hardly be called donating to the cause. It is a fair price for a solid evening's entertainment. Yes, that is plain speaking.

But, all the same, please come to the performances. TASPO is really worth hearing. It is something to be seen and heard on stage.

TASPO is a Trinidad Steel

Rhumbas, Cambas, Tangoes and particularly the steel band numbers. The remainder may include fox-trots, waltzes and classical music, the latter to establish the universal adaptation of the instruments." That advice is going to be followed.

Notwithstanding all that you do yourself wrong to suggest that there is any kind of popular music that TASPO cannot or should not play. It will probably play it just to prove you are wrong. The truth is that TASPO is not the ordinary everyday type of steel band whose style of playing has conditioned our minds and reflexes

Three Minutes A Day

You Must Lose To Win

Lewis Morris, who represented New York at the Continental Congress, knew as well as did the others who signed the Declaration of Independence what that small act of putting pen to paper was going to cost him. Morris had a luxurious family manor, a one-thousand acre stand of trees, much money, and a large measure of happiness which he shared with his six sons and four daughters.

The price he had to pay for his devotion to the cause of liberty was high. His woodland was burned, his mansion despoiled, his livestock scattered, his many miles of fences smashed, his family and his tenants driven off. For seven long years the Morrisses lived in hand-to-mouth poverty. Morris' three older sons endured even greater hard-

ship in the army.

But Lewis Morris had put his name to a document saying that human rights come from God, not from the State, and that no State could justly take those rights away. He had to pay the price for his convictions. One hundred and seventy-five years of American history answer the question: "Was it worth it?"

Much of the trouble throughout the world is caused by those who will risk nothing for the good of all. Invariably these same people lose whatever they try to save for themselves.

Whoever attempts to save his life shall lose it, and whoever loses it shall save it alive." (Luke 17:33)

Lord, give me the courage to sacrifice everything for the good of all.

By James Koller

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