



FORMER Pan Trinbago officials at yesterday's Press briefing. From left, Clifton Greene, Eden Charles, Nestor Sullivan, Andre Moses, Keith

Castor and Mitchum Cummingham.

(Picture by ENA MAHARAJ).

Pan Trinbago not in touch say 'Six'

(TGT)
(STEELBAND)

By SUZANNE MORRIS

Call for new mandate

THE PAN Trinbago impasse was sparked off by the complacency of a Central Executive which had lost touch with developments within the steelband movement.

Yesterday, six former officials of the steelband body disclosed that problems were inevitable because the leadership of the organisation had become too office-oriented and was not paying attention to the problems facing panmen.

Spokesman for the group, Mr. Nestor Sullivan, former vice-president, said that a power struggle was brewing within the executive at the time that the six officials tendered their resignations.

During a Press briefing yesterday, Mr. Sullivan said that a split in the executive developed at the beginning of this year when the emphasis shifted from keeping in touch with

the group's membership to carrying out office duties.

"For the year the executive has not held a single general meeting or pan jamboree. Differences of opinion have become the preoccupation of the Pan Trinbago leadership and this created the opening for trouble-makers who always envied the unity our group enjoyed," he said.

MINOR CHANGES

"Even before that, panmen in the East and in South had begun to express dissatisfaction with the operation of the organisation," Mr. Sullivan added.

According to Mr. Sullivan, prior to the impasse Pan Trinbago had enjoyed unity based on a common desire to promote the steelband movement. This was the case for seven years before the present impasse developed.

He denied that the

steelband body's difficulties were the result of the infiltration of certain political parties.

"Pan Trinbago has never been aligned to any political party and members have the freedom to support whatever organisation they choose. We have never had a problem in that area," he declared.

Mr. Sullivan said it was also inaccurate to state that the impasse had been sparked off by financial problems since the status of the organisation in that area had always been good.

"The present executive has been in existence since 1978 and there have been only a few minor changes since then. They have never faced any real challenges for their leadership positions and this is part of the problem."

The former officials have suggested that structural changes in Pan Trinbago are

needed so that the general membership will have more say in the running of their organisation. They have said that the impasse will not be resolved by filling the posts in the executive that they have vacated.

"What Pan Trinbago needs," said Mr. Sullivan, "is a commitment to a new mandate. Panmen should come forward and play a more active role in their association. They must give more of their talent and experience."

SUNDAY MEETING

The former officials have said that a new mandate should help build a new unity among panmen based on a clear understanding of their past differences.

They are urging members of the steelband body to come out to the re-convened Special Convention which takes place on Sunday in Port-of-Spain to give support to a new mandate.

At present there are approximately 79 steelbands affiliated to Pan Trinbago with most member bands located in East Trinidad.