

ML 1040

# National pan side drums still distant

By **TERRY JOSEPH**

**CONFUSION** has broken out over the location of instruments for a national steel orchestra which Government promised would be ready by Independence Day.

The Ministry of Culture told the *Express* the pans had been sent to Pan Trinbago for tuning, while the pan organisation denied knowledge of any such transaction.

Responding to a query about the cur-

rent status of the orchestra, Director of Culture Dr Hollis Liverpool said drums to make the pans for the band had already been sent to Pan Trinbago for tuning, but pan body president, Patrick Arnold said his organisation has received neither drums nor any form of communication from the Culture Ministry for the past month.

"Somebody has made a mistake. That has nothing to do with us," said Arnold.

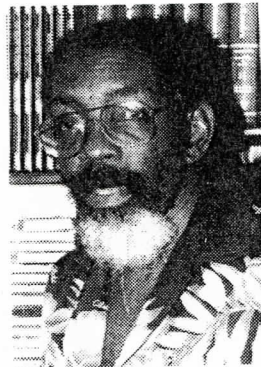
"We have not even heard from the Minister of Culture ever since we asked to take up to the Cabinet our response to the

statement made by the Information Minister (Senator Wade Mark) about our not being involved in the formation or management of the band.

Pan Trinbago had asked for an advance payment if it were to get the pans tuned, but no communication on that matter had been received either.

Sources close to the steelband movement told the *Express* yesterday there had been no work done on the recruitment of players either and expressed anxiety about the project being completed by the August 31 deadline.

Dr Liverpool how-



**HOLLIS LIVERPOOL**

ever said the band was never scheduled to play on Independence Day.

"That is the launch date," he said. "Nobody ever said the band would be actually playing on August 31."