

Pan champs upset over new show rule

By TERRY JOSEPH

CAPTAINS of some steelbands taking part in tomorrow's "Champions of the 20th Century" concert, are objecting to a new proviso that requires each band to sell for the show 50 tickets at \$100 in order to receive full payment of the publicly advertised appearance fee.

The band captains, who called the *Express*, said while there had been talk of this arrangement some time ago, the tickets only arrived in the panyards this week. This gives each band less than six days in which to sell its quota, or face deductions from the appearance fee of \$100,000.

The *Express* learned that bands failing to sell any of the tickets will have the full \$5,000 deducted from their fees.

Express checks with ticket outlets also indicated that sales have not been going well for the

show, which features the 11 bands that have between them won the annual panorama competition since 1963. Each band will play a prize-winning song and one other non-calyпсо piece, rendered in calyпсо tempo. The second song is the subject of a side-show competition for a winner-take-all \$25,000 prize.

The band captains, who requested anonymity "for fear that our orchestras may be victimised", also said they did not know that the normal competition rule, which allows Pan Trinbago to deduct ten per cent of their earnings, was also applicable to Saturday's show. "We budgeted for this show based on expected revenue of \$100,000," said the group's spokesman, "but now it looks like we already down to \$85,000 and we don't know what other surprises they have for us. We are going to play for a lot less than they first gave us to

believe and at the end of the day, Pan Trinbago could be raking in a possible \$15,000 from each band; giving them \$165,000," nearly twice the amount that any band will receive."

The band captains also queried the wisdom of a plan by Pan Trinbago to use steelbands not involved in the competition in concerts to be staged later this week at the Brian Lara Promenade, as part of a last-ditch advertising effort. One captain asked: "Who would get the vibe to go to a show with particular bands, just because they hear other bands playing some songs?"

Since Monday's fire, which gutted Pan Trinbago's offices, the organisation is yet to make public the new location from which it is doing business. Pan Trinbago president Patrick Arnold could not be reached for comment.