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The 'Professor' talks about overseas tours

Steelbands need not rely on Govt

OVERSEAS promotional tours for steelbands are financially rewarding and can be arranged without the dependence on government or private enterprise.

This was the view of pan-musicologist Ken Philmore, popularly called the "Professor" in an address to members of the Hoytonians Steel Orchestra recently.

The steelband was holding a preparatory meeting in San Fernando in readiness for the 1987 pre-Christmas and 1988 pre-Carnival engagements, including the national Panorama.

The meeting was held at the Johnstone Street parliamentary office of San Fernando West representative Dr Anslem St George.

Philmore said that there was an increasing demand for knowledge and performance by steelbands throughout North

America.

Philmore, a touring lecturer and demonstrator on pan music, emphasised that an accelerated programme of steelband tours overseas at trade fairs and festivals would go a long way in providing this country with exposure needed to boost the tourism industry.

Said Philmore: "The steelband industry could find well-organised and promotional tours financially and socially rewarding, and steelbands such as the Hoytonians, could venture into overseas tours without too much dependence on Government or private enterprise."

Philmore is arranging the musical score for several local steelbands in readiness for the 1988 Panorama. The meeting was attended by John Hoyte, the benefactor of the Hoytonians Steelband.

Desperadoes at the Apollo

WITCO Desperadoes leaves for New York on Monday, October 19, on a tour organised by the New York *Daily News*.

The steelband orchestra will be performing from the 24th to 26th at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, with guest artistes including Mighty Sparrow and Nancy Wilson. Despers will also appear at the Newport Shopping Centre in New Jersey on the 21st.

The Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board has decided to seize this opportunity to market this country via the steelband movement and has organised a forum and exhibition booth which will be set up at the venues where Despers are scheduled to perform.

Witco Desperadoes and the Tourist Board will be given editorial space in the New York *Daily News* as well as radio and television coverage during their stay in New York and New Jersey.