

US Steel Bands 7
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New plea for pan on school curriculum

A PAN TRINBAGO representative yesterday made an impassioned plea to a parliamentary secretary to lobby vigorously for the inclusion of the steelband on the national educational curriculum.

Mr Richard Forteau made the call after receiving a \$60,000 donation from Trinidad and Tobago External Telecommunications Company Limited (Textel), to mark International Youth Year.

Textel donated \$157,199.00 to seven organisations and an individual, National cycling champion Gene Samuel, who received \$3,300.

The Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board of Control got \$23,000; the Secondary Schools Cricket Council \$20,075.00; the National Amateur Athletic Association \$8,474.00; John Donaldson Technical Institute \$15,000; the North Eastern Division of the Ministry of Education \$10,500.00 and the National Basketball Federation \$16,850.00.

COACH OF CHOICE

The programme formed part of the company's on-going drive to assist youths. Following the presentations, each representative was called on to make a speech.

Mr. Forteau, graciously accepting the donation, said this country must understand the tremendous role culture played in developing youths and in this regard he thanked Textel for its efforts. But, speaking more or less to Mr Ashton Ford, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, he said that this year France hosted a nationwide schools pan festival and all

schools got the day off to attend.

In Trinidad and Tobago, he said, Pan Trinbago found difficulty in obtaining half a day off for participants of the schools music festival.

Mr. Forteau referred to the National Consultation on Education taking place at Chaguaramas and pleaded with Mr. Ford to lobby for pan to be included on the school curriculum.

Mr Steve Castagne, business manager of cyclist Gene Samuel, said the national cyclist represented this country internationally for the past six years. But this year will be the first time he will have a coach of his choice to accompany him.

Mr. Castagne said that despite the fact that Samuel placed

fifth in the last World Championship with three-tenths of a second separating him from the winner, he received little publicity from the local media. Samuel was the only cyclist who was not competing on a solid wheel.

But with Textel's assistance, Samuel would be properly equipped when he goes to Colorado to attempt to break the world record. Samuel has dedicated that record attempt to Textel.

The Cricket Board received sponsorship for four promising young cricketers (an increase of two over 1984) to go to the Gover Cricket School in the United Kingdom for specialised training. Already Renwick Bishop and Phil Simmons have returned.