

PANMEN POCKET THEIR STICKS

By KEITH SMITH

PAN TrInbago flexed its muscles — and won yesterday's Panorama battle of strength.

In San Fernando, scores of people turned out to take in the scheduled "South Panorama" at Skinner Park — but not a single steelband appeared.

And Tobago's Shaw Park was like a "ghost town" as Tobago steelbands, like their southern counterparts, followed Pan TrInbago's policy directive to boycott Panorama '79.

And the boycott threatened to cast a long shadow over the entire Carnival celebrations as steelbands were adamant about keeping to their pledge to stay out of all organised Carnival competitions.

This means, for example, no steelband will cross the Independence Square stage

on Jour Ouvert morning and that steelbands who have been hired by "mas" bands to play on Carnival Monday and Tuesday will have to return their "advance payment" to the respective bandleaders.

In fact, yesterday, members of the Merry Tones steelband of Diego Martin took back steelpans and stands that they had lent to pupils of Diego Martin R.C. school in keeping with the Pan TrInbago decision to take no part in any CDC-organised steelband competition.

Yesterday the Carnival Development Committee staged its School Panorama Competition.

Worse than that, steelbandmen are now bringing pressure on calypsonians — urging them to boycott the Dimanche Gras calypso finals.

And calypsonians, conscious of the fact that if they do take part, the steelbands could retaliate by deciding not to play their tunes this year and in subsequent years, are watching the situation with concern.

Further, a call has gone out to musicians and masqueraders, from Pan TrInbago, to support the steelband boycott.

Pan TrInbago's successful boycott stems from the government's refusal to accept the notion of a \$3,500 "participation incentive" in addition to a \$500 appearance fee.

Government has accepted the proposal of a \$500 appearance fee — but has insisted that any "participation incentive" must be arrived at only after a Panorama revenue "in excess of \$275,000" has been made.



FIRE DEATH IN CANE FIELD

AN UNIDENTIFIED man was found burnt to death in