

PANDEMONIUM

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CONFUSION REIGNS OVER PANORAMA

By KEITH SMITH

PANORAMA is OFF, according to Pan Trinbago, the representative body of steelbandmen in Trinidad and Tobago.

Panorama is ON, according to the Carnival Development Committee, the government-appointed body geared with the responsibility of organising carnival.

Following an unfruitful meeting with Dr. Cuthbert Joseph, Minister of Education and Culture, yesterday, Pan Trinbago's vice-president, Arnim Smith, declared that Panorama "is definitely off."

But an official of the Carnival Development Com-

mittee insisted that today's Southern and Tobago preliminaries will be held under the umbrella of the Joint Panorama Consultative Committee.

That committee, however, no longer exists, according to Pan Trinbago, who has withdrawn its three representatives from the seven-man body.

CELEBRATIONS

The position is, then, that today is Pan Trinbago's test of strength - will steelbands rally to the organisation's call and stay away or will the pull of the Panorama celebrations prove irresistible.

Pan Trinbago, meanwhile, is pulling out all the stops

to make certain that steelbandmen are aware of its position. The organisation yesterday flew out one of its members, Egbert Alleyne-St. Louis, to carry the "don't play" message to Tobago's steelbands.

And president George Goddard has issued a press release which states that "the president and members of the Central and Regional Executives would like to inform all steelbandmen and members of the general public that Pan Trinbago is no way involved or connected with the organising of any steelband competition" today.

Moreover, Mr. Smith, in a radio broadcast, advised

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steelbandmen that any direction as regards Panorama must come from either Mr. Goddard or himself.

The impasse has come about because of Pan Trinbago's refusal to accept the \$500 "preliminaries" appearance fee granted by the government, under the terms with which it has been offered.

Pan Trinbago wants tacked on to that \$500, a \$3,500 "participation incentive" which it claims was proposed by Dr. Joseph — and accepted at the level of the Joint Consultative Committee- to Cabinet.

Government has accepted the principle of a "participation incentive" — but any such incentive would depend on the Panorama celebrations making revenue "in excess of \$275,000."

In addition to the \$300 appearance fee proposed for the Pan-Around-Neck steelbands, Pan Trinbago wants tacked on a "participation incentive" of \$1,500.

And Pan Trinbago has released the contents of a letter from Dr. Joseph in which it was advised that "it is now proposed (the letter did not clarify by whom) to



GODDARD

increase the fee (Pan-Around Neck) from \$1,200 to \$1,500." That letter was dated February 6, 1979.

The issue is now said to be in the hands of Cabinet's Inter-Ministerial Council which is not scheduled to meet until Tuesday — one week, to the day, before Carnival Tuesday.