

OM FOR BOB

...R-A-A-A-Y

Today is exactly one month since Opposition Member of Parliament Anthony Spaulding brought forward a motion asking for reggae super star Bob Marley to be given the Order of Merit.

As it now stands, the recommendation is on the Order Paper to be debated on some future date. We would like it to go on record that this column is in solidarity with this recommendation.

Discography

BY BASIL WALTERS

We do not envisage any controversy arising when the motion comes up for debate as to whether Bob merits such honour or not, judging from the mood of responses from those who commented on this national issue.

From the tone of the arguments being advanced from various quarters there is general agreement for the genius to be so honoured.

Positive

This would be a very positive move indeed as it would recognise that his pattern of study, innovation and variations, the constant search for new expressions, new modes of musical thoughts, was an unbroken motif and as much a part of his life as the music it helped to create.

His success does not alter his views on continuous study; even as the prosperous songwriter he was unremitting in his efforts to improve and expand his technique.

This coupled with his deep Rastafari conviction struck the tone for him to echo for so many years the anguish, aspiration and the gut reactions of the havenots which has made him the voice of the oppressed in the mind-numbing poverty of the Third World. World.

Strong enough

Honouring Bob Marley is to recognise that the challenge has been taken up by an artiste who has been strong enough, tough enough, visionary enough, talented enough and daring enough to internationalize reggae, a Jamaican music form which has started a tradition in the Caribbean, and that is

irresistible.

To honour him is to recognise that his music has brought about a mass awareness among the world's people, of which the ascending social forces is now shaping a revolution.

Honouring him would be recognising that our people

have begun to express a consciousness that finds its roots in those people who water the cane crops with their blood, sweat, and tears, and who no longer believe in aid, but who believe in self reliance

which has always been the Rastaman's concept of life.

When we honour him, we will have recognised that his influence has always been directed towards the unity of his people, reaching a high point at the historical One Love Peace Concert at the National Stadium in 1978 when he invited the then Prime Minister Michael Manley and Edward Seaga (who was Opposition Leader at the time) to come on stage and shake hands before a near 30,000 cheering souls. This picture is now being used in the "Unity is Strength" campaign.

Desires, dreams

Above all to honour him is to recognise the tremendous efforts, sacrifices and time the "Gong" more than anyone else has made in taking our music to the attention of the world.

Robert Nester Marley, the man who has recently celebrated his 36th "Earthday" (birthday) anniversary, communicates with those of us caught up in the struggle of survival, as we see

ourselves reflected in his music, our failures and successes, our hurt that we seemingly have forgotten, our desires and dreams.

For once let the King be

honoured in his own country. He does merit it.

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The next foreign act we understand will be here is

Peaches and Herb. They are expected to appear on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of March at the Pegasus and Ocho Rios Inter-Continental Hotels.

Love Time