

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTIETH  
MEETING OF COMMISSION B

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on 16th August, 1947, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Hon. L. D. WILGRESS (Canada)

Commission B resumed its consideration of the Reports upon Chapters I, II and VIII and upon Voting and Membership of the Executive Board.

Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) withdrew his proposal to substitute "may" for "shall" in paragraph 3 of Article 65.

ARTICLE 66

Sub-paragraph (b)

The suggestion made by the Legal Drafting Committee was approved.

Sub-paragraph (e)

"Other" before "intergovernmental organizations" was deleted.

ARTICLE 71

Paragraph 3

Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) proposed that the two-thirds majority required be changed to a simple majority.

Mr. FAVIOVICH (Chile) reserved the position of his Delegation in so far as this paragraph concerned Article 13B.

Mr. de GAIFFIER (Belgium/Luxembourg) questioned whether there was any connection between Article 71 and Article 13B.

There being no other support for Mr. AUGENTHALER's proposal he withdrew it.

Paragraph 5

Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) noted that under this paragraph the Organization was not entitled to make recommendations concerning individual countries but could only make recommendations to Members as a whole. He considered that this prevented the Organization from interfering in matters of domestic jurisdiction which it might otherwise do.

Dr. GUTIERREZ (Cuba) said that the power to make recommendations did not involve any intervention in domestic affairs.

Mr. ROYER (France) supported Mr. Augenthaler and stated that he considered paragraph 5 only enabled recommendations of a general character to be made.

Dr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) thought that if this paragraph could be interpreted in any other way than that explained by previous delegates he considered it should be omitted.

Dr. NAUDE (Chairman of the Committee on Chs. I, II and VIII) said that the Committee, by leaving out "the" before "members" had endeavoured to ensure that recommendations should only be made in general and not to individual members.

After this explanation paragraph 5 was adopted.

Paragraph 6

Mr. ANGUS (Canada) reserved the position of his Delegation regarding the proviso.

Dr. COOMBS (Australia) disagreed with the suggestion made by the Legal Drafting Committee.

This suggestion was rejected.

ARTICLE 69

Dr. WUNSZ KING (China) introduced the Report of the Committee on Voting and Membership of the Executive Board. It was agreed that the question of voting should be discussed first, followed by the question of composition of the Executive Board.

Mr. COLBAN (Norway) proposed that Commission B should not attempt to take a decision on this question but should send alternative texts to the World Conference.

Mr. WILCOX (United States) supported this proposal and suggested that the alternative texts should be sent forward without identification. He suggested that there should also be forwarded with the texts the documents prepared by the United Kingdom and the United States Delegations upon their respective formulae for weighted voting.

Mr. FAVIOVICH (Chile) and Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) supported the proposal made by Mr. Colban and amplified by Mr. Wilcox.

Mr. ANGUS (Canada) was rather surprised that a decision on the question of voting was again to be postponed. He questioned whether the Preparatory Committee should forward to the World Conference the formula for weighted voting which had been submitted by the United States Delegation. This formula had not gained any support from any other delegation and the United States Delegation itself was not prepared to go so far as to endorse it. He therefore thought that three alternative texts should be prepared - firstly, embodying the principle of one state/one vote; secondly, embodying the principle of "moderate" weighted voting; and, thirdly, attempting to combine both of those principles.

Mr. de GAIFFIER (Belgium/Luxembourg) referred to the system of proportional representation which tried to ensure to each

party in an electorate a representation proportionate to its strength. He thought that two alternative drafts only should be forwarded to the World Conference.

Dr. GUTIERREZ (Cuba) considered that three alternative texts should be forwarded, the first based upon the principle of one state/one vote, the second upon "moderate" weighted voting, and the third upon a combination of those principles.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) thought that alternative texts should be forwarded to the World Conference based upon the principle of one state/one vote and the principle of "moderate" weighted voting, together with all the material which was available to the Preparatory Committee in a suitable form. He also thought it might be useful to forward as an alternative the proposal for "heavy" weighted voting made by the United States Delegation. The alternative solution put forward by the Canadian and Chinese Delegations should be given prominent mention in the material to be forwarded.

Dr. COOMBS (Australia) thought that three alternative texts might be sent on based upon the principle of one state/one vote, upon weighted voting weighted in accordance with economic importance, and upon weighted voting for certain specified provisions; but that these alternative texts should not be placed in the Charter itself but in an appendix. The Secretariat might also be requested to prepare statistics relating to population, national income, international trade and international trade per head for the information of the World Conference.

Dr. WUNSZ KING (China) read out a text which would give effect to the Canadian and Chinese compromise proposal.

Mr. PARANAGUA (Brazil) pointed out that a majority of Commission B had favoured a system of one state/one vote. He

thought that this fact should be passed on to the World Conference.

Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) supported the remarks of Dr. Coombs.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) said that he had no objection to putting in the material upon voting to be appended to the Report of the Preparatory Committee a statement that so many members of the Preparatory Committee favoured a system of one state one vote.

Mr. COLBAN (Norway) and Dr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) opposed this suggestion.

It was agreed that alternative texts should be prepared and inserted in the Charter rather than placed in an appendix.

It was also agreed that two alternative texts should be inserted; namely, one based upon the principle of one state/one vote and the other upon the principle of weighted voting, together with a reference to the proposal made by the Canadian and Chinese Delegations.

It was also agreed that the Secretariat would prepare an appendix to be attached to the Report of the Preparatory Committee which would describe the alternative proposals and be supplemented by the statistical tables prepared by the United Kingdom and the United States Delegations. It would be noted in the appendix that more accurate statistical material would be supplied by the Secretariat to the World Conference.

The proposals for "medium" and "heavy" weighted voting would not be attributed to particular delegations.