

The financial cost to individual member states of an unnecessarily protracted session is, of course, not only each state's share of that part of the annual budget of the U.N. which is attributable to the extra unnecessary week or so during which the Assembly is in session, but also the much heavier, direct expense to the state of maintaining its delegation in New York for that extra week—cost of hotel rooms, office space, meals for the members of the delegation, telegram and cable tolls, etc. These costs probably total—for all fifty-five nations—about \$120,000 a week.

If a regular session of the General Assembly can on the average be reduced in length by one week without diminishing the effectiveness of the Assembly, but indeed increasing its effectiveness and prestige, the individual citizens of the member states will not only benefit by reductions in the financial costs of membership in the U.N. They will also benefit indirectly in another way. The kind of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers who are most useful at meetings of the U.N. are the very men who are most needed at home to help solve pressing domestic problems and to deal with problems of foreign policy.

Improvements in the rules of procedure and in the practices and the organization of the General Assembly will not only cut down the length of sessions of the General Assembly, they will also result in cutting down the unnecessary prolongation of the meetings of the other organs of the U.N. and of the U.N.'s various commissions. The same thing should apply to the meetings of all the specialized agencies.

The governments which are represented in the Assembly of the U.N. are the same governments which are represented in the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Security Council, the various commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies which will soon number a dozen. If experience at the Assembly demonstrates that the adoption by the Assembly of reforms in its rules, practices and organization economizes the time of the Assembly, these governments will instruct their representatives on other international bodies to press for the adoption of similar reforms in those bodies.

Thus, though we are dealing in this Assembly only with the problem of streamlining the Assembly, our work, if successful, should lead to a similar streamlining of all the other numerous international, deliberative bodies.

No member of the Committee on Procedures and Organization would contend that the reforms proposed by the Committee are final or the last word in wisdom. The fact that the Committee has recommended, in the draft resolution which it has presented to the Assembly, that the Assembly set up towards the middle of this session an *ad hoc* committee on rules of procedure to propose further reforms demonstrates that the members of the Committee realize that the reforms which they have recommended are merely a first step, that some of them are stop-gaps, and that further reforms should be made at this session to come into force at the beginning of the next session.

The Committee has thus recommended not merely the adoption of reforms immediately but also the establishment of machinery for making further reforms. It is indeed to be hoped that the Assembly will every year continue to improve its rules of procedure, its practices and its organization.