

thought that such a commentary would serve the purpose of clearing up possible misconceptions and misapprehensions about the rules. This proposal was not adopted.

3. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

It has long been recognized that no international organization for the maintenance of peace and security can be adequate which does not include effective machinery for dealing with the world's major economic and social problems. At the San Francisco Conference, the Canadian delegation took an active and energetic part in drafting the section of the Charter which provides for a Council to act as a co-ordinating centre for handling such problems.

Article 55 of the Charter sets forth the obligations of the United Nations in the fields of economic and social co-operation. They include the promotion of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress; the solution of various international economic, social, health, and related problems; the promotion of international and cultural co-operation; and the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The responsibility for the discharge of these functions is vested in the General Assembly. The Economic and Social Council, composed of eighteen members elected by the General Assembly, acts, in a sense, as the executive organ of the Assembly in the fields of economic and social co-operation.

There are three principal methods by which the Economic and Social Council may carry out its functions. The first is purely advisory. The Council may make or initiate studies, and make recommendations to the General Assembly, to the Members of the United Nations and to other international organizations with respect to matters falling within its general competence. Secondly, the Economic and Social Council may co-ordinate the activities of international organizations set up by separate intergovernmental agreements to deal with specific problems. These international organizations, referred to in the Charter as specialized agencies, include such bodies as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Monetary Fund, etc. The Charter provides that these specialized agencies shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations. For this purpose the Economic and Social Council may conclude agreements with them, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

Finally, the Economic and Social Council may set up commissions or committees under its own direct jurisdiction to deal with problems which are not already being handled by existing special-