

be kept as much as possible in the hands of the General Assembly itself. The result of the rejection of the proposal for a Nominations Committee was that the five Great Powers acted, in effect, as an informal nominations committee, by agreeing among themselves on slates of officers which were adopted by acclamation. This informal "nominations committee" had all the disadvantages of a formal committee and none of its merits.

Rules of Procedure

The efficiency of any international organization depends to a large extent upon its rules of procedure, which cover such matters as the preparation of the agenda, the order for the conduct of business, the order of voting on main motions and amendments, methods of conducting elections and the functions of the committees. Clear and detailed rules covering all these and related questions can do much to cut down the amount of time consumed in discussions over procedure.

The drawing up of a set of adequate rules for the General Assembly involved the problem of reconciling the constitutional practices and traditions of fifty-one nations. The Executive Committee and the Preparatory Commission drew upon the experience of the League of Nations and of other international organizations, and produced a fairly detailed set of provisional rules of procedure for the General Assembly.

The effectiveness of these rules was subsequently demonstrated by the smooth and expeditious manner in which the meetings of the General Assembly were conducted. For this, a large measure of credit is also due to the skill and authority of the first President of the General Assembly, M. P. H. Spaak, the Foreign Minister of Belgium.

On the other hand, the experience of the First Session of the Assembly made clear the need for greater precision in the drafting of some of the rules and for the addition of new rules, especially for the conduct of business. At its subsequent sessions, the General Assembly will no doubt give further consideration to these matters.

The Preparatory Commission also drew up a set of supplementary provisional rules of procedure for the General Assembly. These were designed to meet the requirements of the First Session. They were made necessary by the decision to divide the First Session of the Assembly into two parts, the first of which would be primarily organizational in character. When they had served their purpose they could be discarded, while the main body of rules would form the core around which the permanent rules of procedure would be built up. One of the supplementary rules proposed by the United States delegation empowered the Economic and Social Council to call