

five drafts of amendments, from which the sub-committee (Mexico, Canada, United States, Australia, Greece, and Secretariat) evolved a quite sensible set of clauses, which was duly adopted by the General Conference.

When the Rapporteur's draft report came up for consideration, the Mexican delegate took the floor on the subject of Spanish as a working language of the Conference—carrying on an argument that was in full flood at Beirut. It should be explained that where simultaneous interpretation is in operation, Spanish is in fact used and interpreted, but not in consecutive interpretation; and all Conference documents are produced only in English and French. Discussion was postponed till the afternoon, when the report had been disposed of. It then appeared that there were two schools of thought over procedure—determined, one may suggest, by their opinions on the use of Spanish as much as their reading of the rules. The Mexican delegation wished to have discussed amendments to Rules 52 and 55, those dealing with languages. It was replied that that could not be done, as proper notice had not been given. The Mexican reply was that notice had virtually been given, through a very vague reservation in the Mexican approval of the general procedure of the Conference given in plenary session. The Chairman, having previously carried out some study of the Rules of Procedure, formally ruled that the matter could be discussed, without prejudice, under the heading of "Other Business." Amid a great deal of cross-talk, the Chairman's ruling was disagreed with on a point of order, and put to the vote. The vote being equally divided, and there being no further business, the Chairman was forced, under another rule, to adjourn the meeting. He stated the position to the General Committee, partly to warn them of the confusion and partly to arrange another meeting. The General Committee asked the Procedure Committee to make a study of the rules, and to have the question of substance discussed at this further meeting, the understanding being that it would be examined by the Secretariat and the Executive Board before the fifth session, and then put on the agenda. As it was obviously impossible for the Committee to study the rules at that stage (1 October), the Chairman made the study himself, and got the Committee to approve of a series of questions to the legal Secretariat designed to lead to clarification and co-ordination. The way was thus cleared for the Latin-Americans to become very eloquent on both practical and spiritual aspects of their amendments; the opposing argument, that the question was purely a technical one of the most efficient way to conduct a Conference, being extremely well put by Professor Nielsen. It was thus possible, when everybody had talked himself out, to get passed a general motion recommending to the General