

1930

Monday Afternoon Session

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or whether they are merely going to pick and choose from sea law and the law relating to ships, and merely select those particular maritime institutions which seem appropriate to aircraft, and apply them to aircraft by specific legislation. The latter is the solution which we have preferred in England.

While I feel that this has been a very scanty outline to you of the beginnings of aeronautical law, possibly it may help to show you the sort of angle from which we, in England, are approaching this very important new branch of the law. (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN LANDIS: Dr. McNair, I am certain your very splendid paper has fascinated and interested the lawyers in attendance, and as one of the laymen, I want to thank you for making your words of so few syllables that I was able to understand them. One of the problems we laymen have when getting mixed up with lawyers is finding out what it is we have done, and what it is we are to do, because of the language used.

Chairman Landis made several announcements, concluding by introducing M. Albert Roper to the Conference.

CHAIRMAN LANDIS: Does the Conference desire to say anything at this time, or do you desire to wait until later? If anyone has any remarks, I am sure we have fifteen or twenty minutes, possibly half an hour, between now and the time we must lunch, to hear them.

If there are no remarks, we will adjourn until two o'clock.

The meeting adjourned at twelve o'clock.

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

August 18, 1930

The meeting convened at two o'clock, Major Reed G. Landis presiding.

CHAIRMAN LANDIS: We will begin this afternoon session with the report of the Rules Committee, which met this noon. Mr. Howard Knotts is Chairman of that committee.

MR. HOWARD KNOTTS: The rest of the Rules Committee is still having dessert! It was thought, in order to avoid any controversy in the matters acted upon and the things that this Conference might produce to be taken back home to the several states, that we had best work out a system of voting and of procedure that would take the least possible time and yet be fair to each person represented, and having in mind those things the Rules Committee very respectfully submits this report:

First, that Robert's Rules of Order will prevail in all matters not specifically presented by the committee.

Second, that in matters of discussion, whether under the head of discussion at the various sessions or under discussion on resolutions, that one person not be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, and that he or she be limited to five minutes for each of such speeches. Of course, we had in mind that where questions are asked or explanations are demanded that the speaker could have additional time, or if it happened to be

so fluent, that he might have the unanimous consent of the Conference, if he obtained it, to speak further.

We also would like to have each person present, when rising to speak, give his name and the name of his state, or the name of the group he represents if it be a group of operators or manufacturers or some such similar group, and if you do represent such a group, we should like to have the name of your state also.

Now as to voting, of course the usual "Yea" and "Nay" vote would first prevail on all questions, and after that, of course, there would be no further voting if the vote is unanimous, or if there is no objection to the vote as it is taken by "Yea" and "Nay," but if there is an objection and a division is called for, the vote shall be taken by states and by number, and will be done in this fashion:

The state will be called for, and the Chairman from that state will be responsible for its vote, not only as to how it shall vote by the majority of its members present, but also how it shall vote by number. For example, if Pennsylvania is called, I think there are two men here from Pennsylvania, and the vote shall be, "Pennsylvania in the affirmative, two." Or, of course, if there is a division of opinion they might draw lots or the Chairman might give us their vote as "Pennsylvania, one and one." We are making each Chairman responsible for the vote of his state.

If we have omitted anybody who is here as the representative of any group, we want him to feel quite free to stand up and tell whom he represents, and vote as he sees fit.

As to Resolutions, each Resolution shall be presented in writing to the Resolutions Committee, and for your information, the Chairman of that committee is Mr. John M. H. Nichols, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who was delayed in coming today but who will be here tonight or tomorrow. I will personally see that he is introduced to the convention tonight or tomorrow morning.

No action shall be taken by this Conference except on resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Committee. In other words, when we have our discussion, that we not direct the Resolutions Committee to do certain things, but let them originate such things as they see fit in the light of the discussion, and then when we act on the resolutions we can discuss them at that time.

The Resolutions Committee is to present each resolution submitted to it, whether it approves it or disapproves it, giving its action and the reason therefor, and the Resolutions Committee is to have the power to originate resolutions in the light of discussion it hears upon the floor of the Conference.

As to the time of submitting resolutions, we believe and request, and in fact make it a rule, that all resolutions concerning subjects that are taken up on Monday or Tuesday be submitted to the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee or some member thereof by Tuesday night, and all resolutions on subjects that are taken up on Wednesday morning be submitted not later than Wednesday noon.

That is the report of the Rules Committee, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LANDIS: Is there any objection to that report? If not, the Chair will assume it is unanimously adopted.

We have one more brief ceremony to go through, and then we can get down to the more pleasant and profitable business of the Conference.

The Executive Committee of the Conference has had manufactured and engraved this gavel, for presentation to the Honorable Louis L. Emmerson, Governor of the State of Illinois, who, as you know, officially greeted you this morning through proxy, and on behalf of the Air Legislative Conference I take a great deal of pleasure in presenting this gavel to Governor Emmerson's representative, Mr. Howard Knotts.

MR. HOWARD KNOTTS: Like the ghost that Dr. McNair committed and recommitted this morning—from ghost to ghost. I return it to you.

CHAIRMAN LANDIS: We are fortunate today in having as a presiding officer a very distinguished gentleman from California the Honorable Gurney E. Newlin, of Los Angeles, Past President of the American Bar Association. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you Mr. Newlin. (Applause.)

Hon. Gurney E. Newlin took the Chair.

CHAIRMAN NEWLIN: It is indeed a peculiar pleasure that I have in the honor of presiding at one of the deliberations of this first meeting of this Conference, and that is really caused by two things; first, on account of the intense and real interest that I have in the various problems in which you are pioneering the way, and, secondly, because I feel that the work of this Conference is of incalculable importance, in that it is approaching in a constructive and analytical way a new problem that must be solved, and that you are endeavoring to solve not by the mistakes and not by hard experience, but by anticipating the problems that may and certainly will arise, and providing remedies therefor before they do arise.

The remark was made today that the attendance was not overwhelmingly large, and in reply I made the statement that numbers make no difference whatever, and I could not in that regard help but think back to what the attendance at the original meeting of the American Bar Association was.

The American Bar Association is now fifty-two years old. The attendance at its original meeting was fourteen, and now it has in excess of 29,000 members. It is not the numbers, but it is the spirit and it is the devotion and the desire to constructively help in that which is now, and will increasingly become, a vital element and a necessity in our daily life.

And so, if in this small and inconspicuous way I may have the opportunity to have some part in starting out what I am sure will be a very necessary and a very helpful thing in the progress of aviation, I am extremely happy.

I now have the very great pleasure and honor of introducing to you as the first speaker of the afternoon M. Albert Roper, Secretary General of the International Commission on Aerial Navigation. M. Roper. (Applause.)