

## CHAPTER XXII

# The Interstate Commission on Council Development

### *Incocogso*

AS THE Council of State Governments neared its second birthday, and as the 1937 legislative sessions approached, the seventeen states which made up the Council realized the scope of the work which lay before the Council. They



ELLWOOD J. TURNER  
*Chairman*

were primarily interested in making it as completely effective as possible, and certainly the first step lay in securing participation by all forty-eight states. Toward that end, the Interstate Commission on Council Development was formed, composed of three members from each state, appointed by the chairman of the Commission on Interstate Coöperation in states which have commissions. If there was no Commission, the appointments were made by the governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house, each of whom appointed one member.

The organization meeting of the Interstate Commission on Council Development was held on Thursday, January 21, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C., on the first day of the Third General Assembly, with Senator Ellwood J. Turner, of Pennsylvania, as chairman. Delegates from states with and without Commissions on Interstate Coöperation attended the meeting to discuss the best methods of attacking the problems facing the states inter-

ested in the development of the Council of State Governments. (For minutes of this meeting see Book Two.)

The commission was established for the purpose of obtaining further coöperation in each of the states, the establishment of a secretariat in each of the planning districts outlined by the National Resources Committee, the securing of financial assistance from the states, and to make recommendations to the board of managers which might be helpful in the development of the Council. In order to accomplish these aims, two committees were set up.

#### *Committee on Operations\**

Senator Jacob Weiss, Indiana  
Hon. Edward J. Turner, Pennsylvania  
Hon. Louis W. Laderman, Ohio  
Hon. Joseph C. Paul, New Jersey  
Hon. Laurens M. Hamilton, New York  
Hon. W. Allan Newell, New York

The committee on operations met under the leadership of Chairman Jacob Weiss, of Indiana, to discuss the establishment of new Commissions on Interstate Coöperation. The delegates from states in which Commissions were already active helped those who were unfamiliar with the project by discussing problems which they had encountered and methods which they had not found most successful.

Delegates from states in which there was no Commission on Interstate Coöperation inquired the best method of bringing about the enacting of statutes forming such Commissions. For their benefit, the New Jersey Statute, which has been accepted as a model bill, was explained. At the same time, the merits of the New York joint resolution were cited, and arrangements made for mimeographed copies of that resolution to be distributed to the delegates.

The advantages of a full Commission of

fifteen members were explained. It is considered advisable to have a committee of five in each house of the legislature, and, at the same time, five administrative commissioners in order to have an informed group in both houses of the legislature to speed passage of desired measures. Because the members of the legislature scatter widely as soon as the session is over, it is recommended that the chairman of the Commission be chosen by the governor from his appointees, in order that the Commission may have year-around headquarters at the capitol.

The functions of a Commission on Interstate Cooperation were also discussed. (The Commission itself functions in a variety of capacities.) Primarily, any interstate problem is referred to the Commission. If it requires conference with several other states, the District Secretariat of the Council of State Governments arranges a meeting of the Commissioners on Interstate Cooperation of all interested states. The district secretary aids in the preparation of agenda, and in the making of physical arrangements. The Commissioners meet and, in friendly discussion, settle the difficulty. If the results of their deliberations are to be embodied in legislation, the bills are introduced and referred to the Committees on Interstate Cooperation in each house. The Committee, having drafted the bills, will be familiar with every aspect of them, they will be reported out with little delay. Inasmuch as they have been favorably reported, and there are five men in each house to explain them, their passage should be facilitated. If necessary, one of the administrative members of the Commission can call upon the governor, explain the purpose of the bills and their merits, and urge his signature.

To the question of how establishment of Commissions on Interstate Cooperation might be brought about, the model bill for such establishment was discussed, and delegates from states not yet having a commission were urged to sponsor such a bill in the coming legislative session, with changes necessary to fit the particular needs of their states. It was suggested that members of Commissions from adjacent states be asked to visit the legislature and ex-

plain the value of a Commission, or that staff members of the Council of State Government be requested to come to the state capitol to urge enactment of legislation providing for a Commission.

### *Resolutions of the Committee on Operations*

The Committee made its report to the Assembly and submitted the following resolutions which were adopted:

#### I

BE IT RESOLVED, That District Secretariats of the Council of State Governments shall be established as rapidly as may be made possible by appropriations from the several state legislatures.

#### II

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Interstate Commission on Council Development through the Council of State Governments shall direct its efforts to the following projects in order of chronological importance as follows:

- 1—Establishment of a Commission on Interstate Cooperation in every state.
  - 2—Establishment of a budget for the maintenance of the Council of State Governments in all its activities, which budget shall provide for quotas to be raised by particular states and which also shall provide for the apportionment of receipts.
  - 3—Development of District Secretariats in areas where Commissions of Interstate Cooperation have been established and where financial support can be secured.
- Provided, these projects shall be carried on simultaneously where possible.

#### III

RESOLVED, That the delegates to the Third General Assembly urge the Chairmen of the Commissions on Interstate Cooperation to request their legislative reference bureaus and legislative counsels to assist actively the Commissions which are at present without staff.

*Committee on Finance*

Senator Robert C. Hendrickson, New Jersey

Sidney W. Sweeney, Louisiana

Hon. Wheeler Milroe, New York

John A. Chambliss, Tennessee

Senator G. P. Ritchey, Mississippi

The Committee on Finance and Resolutions recommended that delegates return to their states with a message of the urgent need for continuance of the work of the Council, and of the importance of the participation of each state in its program and finances. They stated that the present plans for the Council indicate a need for a yearly budget of \$150,000, and they recommended that this sum be apportioned among the several states in accordance with the wealth of the state. The suggested quota would range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. It was decided, however, that no definite arrangement is practicable at the present time.

The committee presented a report to the General Assembly which clearly explains the financial position of the Council. The report follows:

"An analysis of the financial needs of the Council during the coming year indicates that properly to meet the task ahead, which includes the establishment of state commissions or committees on coöperation, the development of regional and nation-wide commissions on various subjects, and increased service for various organizations of governmental officials, the Council will need approximately \$150,000. If it were possible to distribute this cost proportionately among the several states and demand contributions upon such a basis, there would be imposed an average obligation of \$3,000 per state. Actually, the states will not all contribute equal amounts, but the suggested quota for each state ranges from \$2,000 to \$10,000, varying with differences in population, wealth, and income of various states.

"In order that the Council may work to the end that such a plan can be formulated with regard to its financial structure, the committee urges that each of the several delegations here assembled carry back to

their respective states a message of great need for the continuance of the Council and its work, and the importance of the participation of the forty-eight states in the Council's activities."

In order to promote a general plan or policy which will permit the Council not only to carry on, but to move forward, the committee offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolution I*

BE IT RESOLVED, That the delegates to the Third General Assembly of the Council of State Governments urge their respective legislatures to contribute to the Council of State Governments a just share to assist in maintaining the services which it renders to the American Legislators' Association; the National Association of Attorney-Generals; National Association of Secretaries of State; Governors' Conference; the Interstate Commissions on Conflicting Taxation; Crime; Social Security; Council Development; and all public officers, and to maintain the Central Secretariat and such District Secretariats as are now, or which may hereafter be, established.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the quota which each state legislature be urged to contribute as its share to the maintenance of the services rendered by the Council of State Governments shall be determined by the Board of Managers of the Interstate Commission on Council Development, and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the suggested allocation of the aggregate sum received for the Council of State Governments shall be determined by the Board of Managers of the Council of State Governments.

*Future Program*

The Interstate Commission on Council Development will meet in Chicago some time within the calendar year from its last meeting, January 24, 1937, to review the accomplishments of the year, and to consider how its aims—the establishment of Commissions on Interstate Coöperation in each state, and of a district Secretariat in each district—may best be brought about.