

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 3:

PROPOSED NEW METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE
TERM OF SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.
REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTED AT HELSINKI.
Z.N.(G.) 181/2.

In a letter to the Council dated 24 July 1979 Mr. Heppell voiced dissatisfaction with the procedures leading up to the nomination of retiring members of the Commission for possible re-election at a 'Congress' (i.e. a meeting of the Section on Zoological Nomenclature and the Division of Zoology of IUBS). His letter was discussed at the General Meeting of the Commission at Helsinki in 1979, and he and the Secretary were appointed as a subcommittee to consider these questions.

2. The Constitution (Article 2a) at present provides that the term of that one-fifth of the members who have had the longest service terminates at the close of each 'Congress'. As the present 'Congress' meets every three years, this provision implies that the normal term of office of a member is 15 years. In practice, however (as Mr. Heppell showed in tabular form), the retiring one-fifth scarcely, if ever, consists of members who have all served 15 years. The intervention of retirement at age 75, of resignations and of death leads inevitably to the advancement in seniority of members lower down the list, and this is aggravated if the interval between 'Congresses' becomes irregular for any reason. Thus, of the five members retiring at the Helsinki 'Congress', three had been elected in 1968, and two in 1972.

3. Mr. Heppell's proposals for remedying this situation (in which the facts clearly did not correspond to expectations) involved all the members elected at a given Congress being grouped in a Class together with those elected since the preceding Congress. All the members of a Class would have equal seniority and would retire simultaneously. Our proposals follow that model.

4. It may be helpful to have something of the historical background explained. From 1904 (Berne) to 1948 (Paris) the Commission's members were grouped in precisely the sort of classes envisaged by Mr. Heppell. Each class retired automatically at the close of a Congress and was known as the class of the year in which it retired. In those days, members were automatically eligible for re-election. The present system of rotation was introduced at Paris in 1948 and was merely adapted to the conditions of life in IUBS in 1973. Under that scheme, however, members elected in inter-Congress periods to fill casual vacancies served only for the unexpired part of the term of their predecessor, or otherwise were placed in the class whose term of service was to expire first. We do not propose to re-introduce this provision.

5. Our proposals, which consist of a re-draft of Article 3a of the Constitution, are appended. If accepted by the Commission and by the next 'Congress' (Ottawa, 1982), the first formation of the members into classes would take place after that 'Congress'. It is interesting to see how the first set of classes would be made up:

- (a) the senior class would presumably consist of the members still outstanding from those elected at Monaco in 1972 (i.e. those not considered at Ottawa). These number 7 (Brinck, Alvarado, Binder, Vokes, Holthuis, Bernardi, Dupuis);
- (b) the next senior class would consist of those elected between the close of the Monaco Congress and the close of the Bangalore 'Congress'. These number 6 (Mroczkowski, Welch, Kraus, Ride, Sabrosky, Cogger);
- (c) the next senior class would consist of those elected between the close of the Bangalore 'Congress' and the close of the Helsinki 'Congress'. These number 7 (Hahn, Halvorsen, Trjapitzin, Bayer, Corliss, Starobogatov, Melville);
- (d) the most junior class would consist of those elected between the close of the Helsinki 'Congress' and the close of the Ottawa 'Congress'.

At the outset, therefore, there would be only four classes instead of the full number of five envisaged in our proposals. This is because the most senior class will be empty, all its members having been lost to the Commission or already re-elected to serve in a more junior class. Thus, unless Council should decide to terminate the term of service of that class prematurely (Article 3a (vii) of our proposals), there would be no vacancies arising from its expiry in 1985; and the class whose term would end in the year 2000 would comprise members elected to fill vacancies arising between the Ottawa Congress and the next succeeding one.

6. Finally, it should be noted that our proposals do not affect the number of members of the Commission (Article 2a of the Constitution) nor the procedure for nominating and electing new members (Article 4), nor that for determining the eligibility of retiring members for re-election (Article 3b).

D. HEPPELL
R.V. MELVILLE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

It is proposed that the existing Article 3a be deleted and replaced by the following:

Article 3. Term of service of members of the Commission.

(a) Normal term. The normal term of service of a member of the Commission shall be reckoned as follows:

(i) All members shall be grouped into classes according to the date of their election or most recent re-election, and within each class all members shall have equal seniority.

(ii) A class shall consist of members elected or re-elected at a Congress, together with any members elected during the period since the close of the previous Congress.

(iii) The term of service of the most senior class shall terminate at the close of a Congress; but no member of that class shall be automatically eligible for re-election (Section b of this Article).

(iv) No further entries to a class shall be made after the close of a Congress, and a new class shall be opened on the election of the first member to be elected thereafter.

(v) The number of vacancies resulting from the expiry of the term of service of the most senior class shall equal the number of members who remained in the class until the date of its termination, but the Commission retains discretion to vary its numbers at any time (Article 2a) and may, on the recommendation of the Council, decide not to fill all vacancies arising at a given Congress.

(vi) If no Congress is held by the end of the third calendar year after the close of the preceding Congress, the term of service of the most senior class may, if the Council so decides, be terminated at the end of that calendar year, and members elected or re-elected thereafter shall form a new class as if there had been a Congress.

(vii) When no members remain in the most senior class, or when more than half the total number of members is in the most junior class, the term of service of the most senior class may be terminated prematurely, if the Council so decides, whereupon a new class shall be opened.

(viii) There shall be no more than five completed classes at any one time.

[The remaining provisions of this Article remain unchanged.]



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