

152. Subject to that comment and subject to such particular amendments as may be necessary to conform to the specific recommendations of the Commission hereinafter contained, no change in the rules of either Conference could properly be made the subject of a recommendation. The rules have been founded upon long and wide experience, and it would be adventurous and unwise for any *ad hoc* body to suggest changes.

153. Speaking broadly, therefore, the Commission is conscious that whilst the two Conferences owe their existence and authority to voluntary agreement and not to Acts of the Legislature or of authority, they are satisfactory in operation and will doubtless remain so whilst they are constituted of members of the character and integrity of those who at present, as in the past, are lending their services in an honorary capacity and solely from attachment to the sports with which they are associated. At the same time, it must be recognized that not only the representatives to the Conference, but the administrators of both forms of racing, generally graduate to positions of responsibility from the ranks of the owners of horses and that they may therefore be expected to have a natural bias in favour of owner interests.

154. This bias is not likely to have a tendency to interfere with the integrity of the administration, but it may manifest itself in other directions to which it will be the duty of the Commission later to make reference. It may not, however, at this point be inapposite to say that there is already manifest a tendency on the part of some racing administrators to display in practice an insufficient appreciation of the fact that they are, in a very real sense, trustees for the public, without whose support and financial backing the sport could not survive.

155. Fundamentally, however, the maintenance of the control of racing on a high plane is assured by the fact that there is no such thing as a proprietary racing or trotting club in New Zealand. Club members are not shareholders, all the profits of clubs must, in some form or other, be expended on racing and on racecourse amenities, whilst on the dissolution of any club its surplus assets must be disposed of for such public or charitable purposes as the Minister of Internal Affairs approves.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCES

156. Except in respect of their appellate jurisdictions, the Conferences are more legislative than administrative. The responsibility for administration under each falls upon an executive committee. This committee in each instance deals with all questions affecting the management, conduct, and good government of the sport with which it is concerned. Under the rules of racing the executive committee consists of the president and the vice president of the Conference