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ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

PROPOSAL FOR AN INTER-ECONOMIC BUDGET ANALYSIS AS PART OF THE
EMPLOYMENT STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

(Submitted by the Member from Norway as an additional Item for the
Agenda of the First Session of the Economic and Employment Commission,
Document E/CN.1/1)

The terms of reference of the Economic and Employment Commission must be interpreted to mean that the work of the commission shall be concerned with the economic problems as they appear from a broad and general viewpoint. That is to say, it shall be concerned with the study of the general inter-dependency of the basic factors of steady employment and development, with the integration of the forces at work, with the aggregate magnitudes that characterize the national economies or the world economy.

This means that the work of the commission must in one way or another come into contact with or be based on practically all the economic work that takes place in the specialized agencies of the United Nations, in the Department of Economic Affairs of the Secretariat and in other commissions that handle economic matters, such as the Statistical Commission. No danger of overlapping will exist however, if the Economic and Employment Commission sticks to the policy of always concentrating its efforts on the general aspects of the problems, acting more or less as the top of a pyramid whose basis is formed by the specialized agencies, the Department of Economic Affairs and certain other Commissions.

Considering the work of the commission from this point of view there is one task which appears to me to be of central importance, namely, the organization of an inter-economic budget study. I therefore beg to

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propose that the discussion of this topic be placed on the agenda. A few words will be enough to explain what sort of study I have in mind. In many countries there is now going on work on national budgets. This work is highly important in providing the necessary data for a well-reasoned, effective economic policy within each nation. But so far nothing has been done to establish an inter-economic budget, that is, a unified budgeting and accounting system comprising the flows of goods and services and other values, that multilaterally connect the national systems. Such a budget study, however, becomes indispensable the moment the general question of internationally operating factors of employment and development is raised. And there seems to be no more logical way of organizing such a study than in connection with the work of the Economic and Employment Commission.

Ragnar Frisch
