

## PGA ANNUAL MEETING:

# Serious Work Way Down Yonder

"There aren't as many arguments as there used to be," an old timer commented as he walked out of a session of last month's PGA annual meeting in New Orleans.

But, if the arguments were fewer, no delegate could say the 59th annual meeting was merely a smiling social event. No, the meeting was a working conference . . . a time for critical evaluation of the policies of the PGA, an exchange of ideas, a discussion of problems.

Some 300 people attended the sessions in the Fairmont Hotel — a record. And of this group, 104 were voting delegates . . . representatives of the 39 sections around the country and the Tournament Players Division. There is a potential total of 105 voting delegates, but one past president was absent.

Delegates in a microphone-table relationship, not unlike the Security Council of the United Nations, worked hard on presenting, discussing and deciding whether to accept changes in policy. Alternate delegates, guests and PGA staff members sat on the sidelines observing the action.

Proposed policy changes varied widely . . . from a suggestion requirement for recertification be extended (this met heavy opposition) to detailed requirements for Class A membership of driving range professionals. In the initial policy proposal for this latter area, a driving range professional could hold the membership only if his facility had at least 15 tees, was lighted for night use, had "adequate parking" (one place for each tee), and had a golf shop with adequate facilities to display equipment and apparel.

Several resolutions from the PGA executive committee were designed to "expedite" the addition of members to the PGA rolls once they become eligible. Opposition developed from a number of delegates who thought the resolutions sounded more like a "speed-up" of the membership process.

One measure which received favorable response was the suggestion PGA Business School exams were difficult enough that if a



There was plenty of action on the floor of the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans last month. At top, PGA national hierarchy confers, as secretary Don Padgett talks it over with president Henry Poe. Changes in PGA policy were batted around at all sessions and proposed changes in resolutions were discussed at length.

## PGA MEETING:

membership candidate passed School Exam No. 1 and School Exam No. 2, he shouldn't be required to also take the "easier" membership exam.

From sections around the country, delegates had come to report on the feelings and moods of the pros in their territories. After the meeting they would take back reports of what happened in New Orleans. A Pacific Northwest delegate explained, for example, 225 persons attended a meeting in his section to discuss resolutions which would be considered in New Orleans.

In formal sessions, Henry C. Poe of Vanity Fair Golf Club in Monroeville, Ala., was reelected president of the PGA. Donald E. Padgett, recently named director of golf at Callaway Gardens Golf Resort, Ga., was reelected secretary. Frank Cardi of Apawamis Club, Rye, N.Y., was reelected treasurer.

At the President's Annual Dinner, Walker Inman, Jr., head professional at Scioto, Columbus, Ohio, was named Golf Professional of the year for "his total contribution to golf and community." John Henrich, Elma Meadows, N.Y., received the Horton Smith Award for his contribution to golf education, and Jack Nicklaus received the PGA Player of the Year Award.

Nicklaus, who has won the Player of the Year Award four times, was present to receive the award in person for the first time. In accepting the award, he had high praise for improved cooperation within the PGA and with the Tournament Players Division. He said he felt club pros and the organization of the PGA had contributed to the well-being, and success of the tour. At the same time, he feels the tour has helped the situation of club pros.

Beman explained that prime objectives of the tour include: promoting the game of golf, providing the highest level of competition and maintaining integrity of the game.

"We are really holding the tour in the public trust . . . in years to come we aren't going to be judged on how we exploited the game, but how we served it," he said. □



Everyone at the meeting wasn't from just this country. At top, Canadian PGA President Arnold McLean was on hand representing our northern neighbors. Delegates listened to a number of measures on the floor, while in the third shot from top, Michigan PGA members caucus over a resolution. Pictured from left are section president Tom Talkington and treasurer James Applegate.