which the production area is divided and to reapportion the representation of any district on the Committee: Provided, That such changes shall reflect insofar as practical, shifts in oil production within the production area and numbers of producers; and

(n) To establish with the approval of the Secretary such rules and regulations as are necessary or incidental to administration of this subpart, as are consistent with its provisions, and as would tend to accomplish the purposes of this subpart and the act.

§ 985.29 Procedure.

(a) At an assembled meeting, all votes shall be cast in person and seven members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Decisions of the Committee shall require the concurring vote of at least six members. If both a Committee member and appropriate alternate are unable to attend a Committee meeting, the Committee may designate any other alternate from the same district who is present at the meeting to serve in the member's place.

(b) The Committee may vote by mail, telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication: Provided, That each proposition is explained accurately, fully, and identically to each member. All votes shall be confirmed promptly in writing. Seven concurring votes and no dissenting votes shall be required for approval of a Committee action by such method.

§ 985.30 Expenses and compensation.

Members of the Committee, their alternates, subcommittees including any special subcommittees, shall serve without compensation but shall receive such allowances for necessary expenses, incurred in performing their duties, as may be approved by the Committee.

Research

§ 985.31 Research and development projects.

The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution and consumption or efficient production of oil. The Committee shall consider ongoing research, by industry and grower organizations, in making its recommendations. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §985.41.

Expenses and Assessments

§ 985.40 Expenses.

The Committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to this subpart, determine to be appropriate, and for the maintenance and functioning of the Committee during each marketing year. The Committee shall submit to the Secretary a budget for each marketing year, including an explanation of the items appearing therein, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such year.

§ 985.41 Assessments.

(a) Requirements for payment. Each person who first handles salable oil shall pay to the Committee, upon demand, that handler’s pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each marketing year. Each handler’s pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment fixed by the Secretary times the quantity of oil which the handler handles as the first handler thereof. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the Committee and for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to this subpart, determine to be appropriate, may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect, irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) Rate of assessment. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each handler. At any time during or after the marketing year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment as necessary to cover authorized expenses. Such increase shall be applied to all oil handled during the applicable marketing year. In order to provide funds for the administration of