

REGNECENTRALEN, Gl.Carlsbergvej 2, Valby, Denmark. 1960 February 4th.

To the members of the ALGOL 60 Committee.

Enclosed I send you the first draft of our report. It conforms reasonably with our agreements - to exactly what extent you will be able to find out yourself.

On the difficult question of procedure statements and declarations I have dropped my proposal of 20. Jan., in the first place because of the objections from Rutishauser and Perlis, secondly because the additional explanations have made it possible, I feel, to arrive at a concept which is both close to the ideas which we agreed upon in Paris, and which is reasonably clear in its implications. In addition I have succeeded in rephrasing the sections 2.8 and 2.9 in such a way that the famous footnote becomes unnecessary (I hope, at least). As the text stands it is quite agreeable both to myself and to Jensen and Mondrup here, who will have to make our translator on the basis of it. As a very minor point I have changed from listing name to listing the complementary set value. This I am sure will save a lot of ink. Even if you do not approve, please let me have it - as a compensation for the ink I have spent on our report.

In passing I would like to mention a fact which has been pointed out to me by mr. Jensen: As a direct consequence of our new rules the partly empty arrays and procedures are, in fact, automatically available. How this comes about in practise you will be able to see from the examples in sections 4.7.2 and 5.4.2 on the procedure Innerproduct.

In section 4.2.4 I of course stick to Rutishauser's wish. I am not pleased with it, however, (it makes the operator + and all the rules for types throughout the report quite unnecessary) and I feel that Rutishauser still owes us an account of his reasons for wishing this feature.

I have one further wish: let us remove the possibility of writing conditional expressions ending with an if expression. This would make the two last lines of section 3.3.3 void. Syntactically it would only be necessary to remove if expressions from the definitions of <arithmetic expressions>, <Boolean expres.> and <designational expr.>.

In a few scattered places I have inserted remarks where weak points are present. I expect you to inform me of your opinion in all these cases. If on some of these points I receive no positive remark from you I will assume that you do not feel strongly about them.

The planned index at the end is not yet included, partly to save time, partly because it may still have to be changed radically, if major changes are made anywhere in the report.

Comprehensive illustrative examples have been added at the end of the report to exactly the extent they have been received by me from the members of the Committee.

The report is mailed to you on February 4th. I expect you to send me when you have had it for exactly one week your remarks, corrections and clear indications whether you wish to have a new draft before final acceptance or whether you trust my judgement when making the final corrections according to the remarks received from all the members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Peter Naur

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