

1 custom in the General Provisions Committee to thoroughly
2 discuss each item, but because of the many ramifications
3 of each item and the variety of items referred to us, we
4 have thought it more expedient to ^{create through} delegate into special
5 subcommittees some specialization, and this is the purpose
6 of the Subcommittee on Oaths. After the Subcommittee made
7 its report back to the full Committee, of course we
8 then had full discussion; and I am very happy to report
9 to my knowledge there are no minority reports on this
10 section.

11 Your Committee on General Provisions considered,
12 we thought, every aspect of the oath. We considered that
13 the judicial meaning of the phrase "an office of profit
14 or trust" in many cases were in these terms defined. The
15 Committee considered the use of the words "swear or affirm",
16 and we felt that the authority for usage is in the Cons-
17 titution of the United States, Article VI, in the presen-
18 tation oath of office. The affirmation was initially
19 designed to rectify the practical injustice that resulted
20 to suitors where witnesses, who possessed a prerequisite
21 belief in God were nevertheless prevented from testifying