

1 DELEGATE BLAIR: Mr. Chairman, I think that can
2 best be answered by the basis of the affirmation, substi-
3 tuted for the oath. I has been construed by an opinion of
4 the Attorney General actually that the affirmation would
5 substitute for the oath, and that a belief in God would not
6 be necessary.

7 The answer to the previous question on Article
8 37, I think, of the Declaration of Rights, would indicate
9 that no religious test ought ever to be required as a
10 qualification for any office of profit or trust in this
11 State, other than a declaration of belief in the existence
12 of God, nor shall the legislature prescribe any/oath of
13 office other than the oath prescribed by this Constitution.

14 That was declared unconstitutional under the
15 case that you tried, I think, Judge Henderson.

16 DELEGATE HENDERSON: That was overruled.

17 DELEGATE BLAIR: That was overruled. That par-
18 ticular provision was declared unconstitutional. That is
19 the only reference I have come across, with regard to God
20 being a part of the prescription for oath, but the Attorney
21 General has ruled, and I think it is an acknowledged