

1 of all, the parentheses were inserted deliberately to give  
2 an option to the person who is about to take the oath, the  
3 same as in the balance of the recommendation, the words  
4 "or affirm" are in parentheses, likewise to give the option  
5 to the person who is being sworn.

6 Mr. Chairman, I want to apologize for the late-  
7 ness of my amendment, mostly because I was greatly sur-  
8 prised by the fact that there was nothing else on our  
9 agenda to cover this wording.

10 As just stated, the purpose of that amendment is  
11 not to dictate to any person whether or not he should take  
12 an oath to Almighty God, but merely to give the option to  
13 that person, that designee or elected official, to announce  
14 to the world whether or not he believes in Almighty God  
15 and wants to do so in the nature I might state of a tiny  
16 little prayer before he is sworn.

17 Now, today we started with a prayer. The  
18 Supreme Court started with a prayer. Many people in this  
19 room started their day with a prayer. It is not unusual,  
20 so that those persons who want to do so will be in a  
21 position to announce to the world in the presence of