Convention, by way of explanation first of all, the parentheses were inserted deliberately to give an option to the person who is about to take the oath, the same as in the balance of the recommendation, the words "or affirm" are in parentheses, likewise to give the option to the person who is being sworn.

Mr. Chairman, I want to apologize for the lateness of my amendment, mostly because I was greatly surprised by the fact that there was nothing else on our agenda to cover this wording.

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

Now, today, we started with a prayer. The Supreme Court started with a prayer. Many people in this room started their day with a prayer. It is not unusual, so that those persons who want to do so will be in a position to announce to the world in the presence of Almighty God. It adds dignity. It adds dignity not only to that ceremony in the future but also to this document.

Now, I do not think it is important that we worry about what the Supreme Court might say about this situation, and I do not think it is important that we worry about the possible complaints from agnostics who might want to complain. I am sure there are many who could care less, so that I do not think we should worry about that.

It is possible, if you will look at Delegate Proposal No. 1, the four or five pages, it is very possible that the only place that our dear Lord will be referred to in this Constitution will be in these parentheses marks.

I do not think that we should deny Him completely in our Constitution.

There is plenty of religious history in this State. We can start right with the foundation of the State and the name of the State, the name of the first capital of this State, the fact that the first Catholic diocese was founded in this State. We could go on.

I would strongly suggest, Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen of this Committee and of this Convention that we not be afraid of being accused of wanting to allow our officeholders to express a belief in God. I strongly suggest to you, sir, that this would be a good thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

(There was no response.)

Are you ready for the question?

DELEGATE BEALL: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to the Committee Recommendation GP-2.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of Amendment No. 1. A vote No is a vote against.

All those in favor, signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Noes seem to have it. The Chair will call for a roll call vote. A vote Aye is a vote in favor of Amendment No. 1. A vote No is a vote against.

Have all delegates voted? Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

(There was no response.)

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 68 votes in the affirmative and 63 in the negative, the motion carries. The amendment is adopted.

Are there any other amendments?

(There was no response.)

The question now arises on the adoption of Committee Recommendation GP-2 as amended. Is there any further discussion? Delegate Bard?

DELEGATE BARD: Mr. Chairman, is it in order to ask for a clarification of an earlier response?

THE CHAIRMAN: What response?

DELEGATE BARD: In respect to whether this particular recommendation as noted would affect those who hold local offices discussed within the Constitution. I do not think that response was as clear, for me at any rate, as it might have been.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understood the Chairman of the Committee to say that the Committee believed that the oath applied to every person elected or appointed to any office under the Constitution or laws of this State and would therefore apply to statewide and to local offices. I will ask the Chairman of the Committee whether that was his statement. Delegate Boyer?