

DELEGATE MORGAN: Mr. President, the Committee on the Executive Branch will postpone its meeting originally planned for immediately after the session, until 9:30 A.M. tomorrow morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you now ready for the question?

(Call for the question.)

The question arises on the motion to adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 12:00 noon. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it. It is so ordered.

(Whereupon, at 5:55 P.M., the Convention was adjourned to reconvene 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 7, 1967.)

PLENARY SESSION

NOVEMBER 7, 1967—12:00 NOON

PRESIDENT H. VERNON ENEY,
PRESIDING

THE PRESIDENT: The Sergeant-at-Arms will clear the aisles and close the doors. The Convention will please come to order.

The invocation today will be offered by the Reverend Charles Daugherty of the Chapel of the Ascension, Lexington Park. Reverend Daugherty.

REVEREND DAUGHERTY: Let us Pray:

Almighty God, Who has given us this land for our heritage, we invoke Thy blessing for the men and women gathered here for a good work — the ordered, responsible governing of the people of our state. Give them the vision to see what ought to be done and the wisdom to know what can be done. Save them from blind idealism and bleak cynicism. Let their work be a hard-headed labor of love. Love of their fellow men, their state, their nation, their world — Your people, Your state, Your nation, Your world. Though they may be perplexed, save them from despair. Be with them, oh, Lord, now and in the days to come.

Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Roll call.

(Whereupon, the roll call was taken.)

Have all delegates answered roll call?

(There was no response.)

The Clerk will record the roll call.

A few minutes delay in opening the session of the Convention has been due to the fact that both print machines broke down just as the debate schedule was being printed. It is being Xeroxed. It will be here in a few moments. Rather than call on the Chairman of the Committee on Calendar to report, I will skip that for the moment and proceed to a few announcements so that you will have an opportunity to see the late schedule before the Chairman of the Calendar and Agenda Committee presents it.

Yesterday, in the Committee of the Whole, the question was asked whether or not the prior Constitutions of Maryland made any reference to God in the provision for the oath, and I indicated that a very quick glance at the copies of the four previous Constitutions indicated that in the oath section, there was no reference to God.

This was partially incorrect in that the 1776 Constitution in prescribing the oath does indeed not make any provision to God or any Supreme Being, but in the same section, following the provision for the oath, provides that the person taking the oath shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion. Similarly, the subsequent Constitutions did not make in the oath section itself any reference to a Supreme Being, but each of them in a provision in the Declaration of Rights did require in varying terms that elected officials indicate their belief in a Supreme Being.

I make this statement merely so that the record will be correct.

Delegate Beatrice Miller?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. President, I rise on a point of parliamentary inquiry. I would like to know whether it is possible to call for reconsideration of the amendment that we passed yesterday in the Committee of the Whole?

THE PRESIDENT: It would not be at this time. There will be an opportunity, of course, not for reconsideration, but for the equivalent, new consideration of that, when the Committee recommendation is presented to the Convention on second reading. It will then be open for amendment. Delegate Miller?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: There is no reconsideration of any action taken by the Committee of the Whole; is that correct?