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Prohibition of Religious Tests for Officeholding

U.S. Constitution, Article 6

The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

Committee of Detail Report, Monday, 6 August 1787

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The Members of the Legislatures and the executive and judicial officers of the United States, and of the several States, shall be bound by oath to support this Constitution.

Debates, Monday, 20 August 1787 (excerpts)

Mr. [CHARLES] PINCKNEY submitted to the House, in order to be referred to the Committee of detail, the following propositions. . . .

No religious test or qualification shall ever be annexed to any oath of office under the authority of the U.S. . . .

These propositions were referred to the Committee of detail without debate or consideration of them, by the House.

Debates, Thursday, 30 August 1787

Art: XX [of the Committee of Detail Report was] taken up.—“or affirmation” was added after “oath.”

Mr. [CHARLES] PINCKNEY moved to add to the art:—“but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the authority of the U. States.”

Mr. SHERMAN thought it unnecessary, the prevailing liberality being a sufficient security agst. such tests.

Mr. GOVR. MORRIS & Genl. [CHARLES COTESWORTH] PINCKNEY approved the motion.

The motion was agreed to nem. con. and then the whole Article, N.C. only no. & Md. divided.

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