

1 THE PRESIDENT: The Sergeant at Arms will clear  
2 the aisles and close the doors.

3 The Convention will please come to order.

4 The invocation this morning will be offered by  
5 the Reverend Carroll R. Gunkel of Trinity Methodist Church,  
6 Catonsville. Reverend Gunkel.

7 REVEREND GUNKEL: Let us pray: Almighty and  
8 most gracious God, the first thoughts which come into our  
9 minds in the morning hour, the first words which come  
10 forth from our lips are thoughts and words of thanksgiving  
11 that Thou has brought us from the darkness of night to the  
12 light of yet another day; and though that day is cloudy  
13 and cold and foggy, we know that there is nothing upon this  
14 earth which can hide Thy love from us; so enable us, O  
15 Lord, as we come in this hour to be properly thankful for  
16 Thy past blessings, and to look forward with continuing  
17 hope for Thy mercy and Thy love to rest upon us. We in-  
18 voke Thy blessing most heartily upon these delegates  
19 assembled in this Convention. We pray Thy blessing and  
20 Thy benediction upon each and every one of them as they  
21 travel back and forth from their homes to this place of