

An outstanding example whereby, we, the People, amended the Constitution and changed our rules is recent and well within your memories.

I refer to the adoption of the Income Tax Amendment.

In and of itself, this amendment was extraordinary; because the power to tax is the power to destroy and there is no concept dearer to a Liberty-loving people than protection against oppressive taxation.

As State Senator in 1911, I voted for this amendment; and, of course, I am not here today to oppose it 25 years too late.

I have a feeling, however, that we did not then fully envisage the extent to which we, the People, were relinquishing insurance against oppressive taxation with which our forefathers had been painstaking to cover us.

The Constitution, as drawn by our Forefathers, provided that the Federal Government should not have any power to impose direct taxes, except according to the ratio of the population of all the constituent States in the Union taken upon a census.

What did that mean?