

called, and we should handle this matter in an appropriate fashion. There are people who discuss these issues on the floor. I haven't talked about a single Supreme Court decision that has come down, but there are a lot of people who are mouthing and repeating things they have heard and not saying what they understand from having reviewed those court decisions. And based on that belief that I have, I would say not five people on this floor really understand all the ramifications of what that amendment will do to the Constitution, or even what those decisions that the Supreme Court has handed down actually say and mean. They can tell you what people have told them and what they've read about in the newspaper. We should not treat the Constitution like we would a statute and say that some people are in such a hurry to get this thing done that we ought to throw all caution aside and, whether we understand or not the full implications of our acts, we should go ahead and place them so we can get out of here, because there is a 90-day limit on a legislative session. If the issue is as serious as we've had it presented to us, and I'm not going to say it isn't, that in itself is the strongest argument for us to pause and not rush headlong into this. But, if 40 people decide to pass this monstrosity, it's going to be difficult to persuade the people that something is being done in their behalf when those who argue against it to the public can show that by virtue of the language in the amendment different taxpayers can be treated in a discriminatory fashion, as would be perceived by those who are going to have to pay the different tax rate. That's what this is for, so you can tax people differently. And it's not going to be taxing them differently on the basis of their ability to pay, but taxing them differently on their lack of ability to resist. The ones taxed the heaviest are the ones with the least power to resist that taxation. John Marshall, an old Chief Justice, did say the power to tax is the power to destroy. Who pays proportionately the highest taxes in this state? The poor, because the poor are the ones most easily sat upon and taken advantage of. During slavery, the slave most often whipped was the slave most easily whipped. And that attitude is found throughout society when somebody wielding power wants to find a recipient or a victim on which to inflict that power. In this case the most onerous burden that government can place astride citizen's backs is taxes.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.