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**SUNDAY Q&A**

# 'The law that never was'

Geoff Metcalf's interview answers question, 'Is 16th Amendment legal?'

By Geoff Metcalf  
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*A criminal investigator for the Illinois Department of Revenue for approximately 10 years, William J. Benson of South Holland, Illinois has been at the vanguard of debate and controversy surround the 16th Amendment for almost two decades. In 1984 he embarked upon a year-long project to examine the process of the ratification of the 16th Amendment and to determine whether or not it had been lawfully adopted as part of the U.S. Constitution. The culmination of Benson's work is the book, "The Law That Never Was."*

**Question:** You have been engaged in this 16th amendment battle for almost 20 years. How did it start?

**Answer:** I was a former investigator for the Illinois Department of Revenue. I discovered a great deal of corruption within that department and for that the Director fired me. I told him if he fired me, I would sue him for violation of First Amendment rights. Six and half years later we were in court. We had a jury of six; it



Bill Benson, author of "The Law That Never Was"

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