This is the situation. Here we are, a great and vigorous people, generating power enough to run a
dozen governments and our government has got away from us, and switched us off, and our
nominal representatives are getting their motive power elsewhere. There in the Senate Chamber
is the center of the conspiracy which has defrauded us of our rights. It will soon be with us as it
was with the Roman oligarchy. "Senatus Populusque Romanus," they used to say, when they
It is "The Senate and the American People" to-day, and we may soon improve on the Roman
legend and drop the "People" altogether, and then, politically speaking, the Senate will be the
Whole Thing. But they tempered the asperities of oligarchy in Rome by naming tribunes of the
people who had the courage to call a halt when the Senate went too far, and to maintain the rights
of the people against their rulers. We need such tribunes in this country, and their aim should be
to bring the senators back to their allegiance. Legislative elections have proved to be almost
invariably corrupt and the sure means of handing over the selection to the money power. The
senators as a rule are either direct representatives of the trusts or political bosses by the grace of
the trusts. The problem before us is to select our own bosses for ourselves and make the
senators our representatives, and to cut off the connection which binds them to interests which
are diametrically opposed to ours. Popular election seems to be the obvious reform. The electors
of a whole state cannot be handled as a legislature can be. The people should rise in their wrath
and demand this change. The world of finance has its own proper functions to accomplish, but it
should have no place in the management of our government. Let the people once more become
the Real Thing.

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