

***The Issue: Founder says raid was politically motivated.  
Our View: Conspiracy theory aside, federal case likely  
has merit.***

By, Evansville Courier Press Editorial  
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Bernard von NotHaus, the creator of the liberty dollar, might have a bit more credibility in his fight with the federal government if he hadn't made the silly claim that raids on his Evansville business were somehow linked to his support for Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul.

Even Paul's own campaign people say there is no connection. Von NotHaus, in Evansville Thursday for the first time since federal agents raided his Liberty Services headquarters, said the raid was political motivated because it came shortly after the arrival of a large shipment of Ron Paul dollars, which NotHaus compared to campaign buttons for Paul.

During the raid, authorities took, among other things, two tons of the newly minted copper dollars featuring a likeness of Paul.

That federal authorities swooped down on von NotHaus' business is not surprising. That they would do it to somehow hinder Paul's Republican presidential campaign defies belief.

This fight between the federal government and von NotHaus, who distributes the liberty dollars as an alternative to the U.S. dollar, was going on long before Paul became a presidential candidate.

Von NotHaus is founder of the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act & International Revenue Code, which is critical of the Federal Reserve.

In fact, von NotHaus filed a federal suit in Evansville this year seeking an injunction against the federal government to force it to stop referring to his liberty dollar as illegal currency, although that is exactly what authorities say it is.

The raid on the office at 225 N. Stockwell Road is part of larger investigation thought preliminary to an upcoming grand jury probe of von NotHaus' dollars.

It would appear to us that his own comments might aid the government effort. After all, von NotHaus says that with the liberty dollar, his organization is producing an alternative currency to the U.S. dollar.

If doing that is illegal, federal authorities are a long way toward proving their case. Of course, von NotHaus says what he is doing is not illegal.

Ultimately, the case is more complicated than our simplified picture of disagreement. It is an issue that most appropriately should be decided in court.

And when that happens, the case should prove to be heavy on constitutional scholarship and light on political intrigue.