

COLD HARD CASH: A new currency is poised to give the Federal Reserve a run for its money

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While the Federal Reserve issues newly designed currency designed to thwart counterfeiters, the group called NORFED has gone the Fed one better: It's issuing its own silver-based currency, and it won't stop until everyone is buying stuff with the Liberty buck.

"You shall not crucify mankind on a cross of gold!" thundered portly presidential candidate William Jennings Bryant in his historic fire-and-brimstone speech advocating free silver at the 1896 Democratic convention. Bryant subsequently lost his lifelong bid for the White House, but this ephemeral moment of high drama represents the high-water mark for the embattled "free silver" movement. Within a few decades, efforts to modify the nation's currency quickly became a marginal political issue relegated to a smattering of survivalists, Christian Identity groups, and Libertarian tax protestors. Much to Bryant's posthumous delight, however, the free-silver issue has once again reached the national stage.

NEW CURRENCY FOR A NEW TIME

On October 1, 1998, the rainbow currency arrived. In a biblical crusade to eject the money-changing Feds from the temple of American commerce, the Indiana-based National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Code (NORFED) are offering handsome silver-backed bills in \$1, \$5, and \$10 denominations in a two-pronged effort to supplant our sagging dollar and end the ongoing economic tyranny of the Federal Reserve system. Considering their auspicious campaign a "patriotic mission," NORFED has micro-lettered the border of each note with the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the text of the First Amendment.

"This is one man's answer to that question: What can I do?" says NORFED's Senior Economic Advisor, Bernard von NotHaus. Having spent the last 24 years researching America's intricate currency scheme, he firmly believes this may be the first step toward reconfiguring how we purchase goods and services.

"This is a way to – very slowly, in an evolutionary way – transform America's currency," von NotHaus asserts. "This is monumental. It could save our country."

Unlike our cash supply, whose value as a commodity is constantly being manipulated by Washington bureaucrats and well-heeled banking interests, American Liberty Currency (ALC) constitutes a daring attempt to eliminate the government from monetary transactions and let an unbridled economy run its course.

Devised as legal negotiable instruments in compliance with the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) by the Royal Hawaiian Mint, Liberty Currency answers directly to the silver standard. Each beautiful \$10 Liberty note is a warehouse receipt equivalent to one Troy ounce of unadulterated (.999 fine) silver.

NORFED's precious metal reserves are stored at Sunshine Minting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; an independent entity subjected to monthly audits to guard against any malfeasance by NORFED or Sunshine Minting executives.

Preparing for a court challenge, NORFED has already launched a preemptive strike by consulting with a lawyer about the legality of their efforts. Addressing their concerns, Hawaiian attorney Paul J. Sulla expresses the belief that the NORFED currency alternative is a legitimate one. "The Patriot is a valid, negotiable paper instrument, satisfactory in all respects," Sulla maintains.

With Sulla's blessing, and a small group of supporters, NORFED is hoping this "patriotic alternative" to our beloved "dead presidents" may soon become a household standard among consumers. To gain the public's trust, they list the number of Patriots sold each day on their website. "We'd like to let people know this is not a fly-by-night operation," von NotHaus assures.

A HISTORY OF CURRENCY REBELLION

NORFED is not the first group or organization to rail against the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. Alternative presses and web sites have probed the issue thoroughly; EYE readers may recall a report on groups alleging a Federal Reserve conspiracy in issue No. 10.

Opponents of our current monetary system contend that the Federal Reserve System is far from "federal" and has no real reserves to speak of. Instead, the value of each dollar hinges upon a convoluted (and at times highly politicized) equation based on the number of dollars in circulation and the availability of goods and services. Thus, anti-reservists argue that there is no intrinsic value behind the American money supply. Instead, the powers behind the reserve print these notes at taxpayer expense, then inflate and deflate the value of our cash based on nothing other than whim – all in order to line a few already – stuffed pockets.

Holding that the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 is blatantly unconstitutional, critics maintain that it undermines one of the most fundamental precepts of our democracy. In short, the Federal Reserve Act – which established the 12 Federal Reserve banks – directly circumvents the strict edict set forth by our founding fathers that only Congress shall have the power to coin money. Anti-Federalists allege that this Byzantine alliance has created depressions, recessions, and other fiscal phenomena that have wrought havoc upon ordinary Americans – and continue to do so. The more paranoid believe that the omnipotent masterminds of the Federal Reserve are not above assassinating presidents.

DEAD PRESIDENTS

As proof, these anti-Reservists offer President John F. Kennedy's legendary Executive Order 11110. This often-discussed 1963 directive ordered the Department of the Treasury to replace over \$4 billion in Federal Reserve notes with silver-backed currency. The pro-silver faction

alleges that this document was an ill-fated attempt by the executive branch to dilute the powers of the Federal Reserve by granting similar privileges to the Treasury Department. They claim this good-faith attempt by the Kennedy Administration to inject a greater amount of silver into our money supply posed a major threat to the underhanded double-dealers of the central banking cartel.

Because EO 11110 was signed on June 4, 1963, such researchers as Jim Marrs – author of *Crossfire: The Plot to Kill President Kennedy* – are convinced that the Fed was tangentially involved in the conspiracy behind Kennedy's assassination.

Dr. Edward Larson of Charleston University scoffs at the mere assumption. "EO 11110 did not create authority to issue new silver certificates, it only affected who could give the order," he notes in his essay "Did the Fed Kill JFK?." "The purpose of the order was to facilitate the reduction of certificates in circulation, not to increase them."

Detractors of the theory notwithstanding, von NotHaus plans to be cautious. "If my family dies of anything other than old age, you can blame the forces behind the U.S. government," he warns.

Although still in the germinal phase of development, NORFED has already received unflinching support from one corner of the political landscape: the anti-governmental populists of the patriot movement. Standing four-square behind von NotHaus and his fledgling organization, these fiery, marginalized ur-Constitutionalists heed the NORFED message. "The first step in toppling the Federal Reserve is bringing together the millions of Americans who have long questioned its constitutional legality. Enter NORFED and the American Liberty Currency," opines the militia-friendly Media Bypass.

So what does the public gain by paying bills with silver certificates instead of regular money? Actually, there are a myriad of benefits to trading with this currency – particularly now, as rumors of global depression circulate in the wake of the Asian stock market crash. One major plus is the fact that silver is a financially stable investment that isn't vulnerable to rapid market fluctuations. Numerous purveyors of raw sterling are showing up both in high-brow Libertarian publications and intellectually conservative quarterlies. Also, with Y2K looming on the horizon, diverting a bit of money into silver may also provide a valuable nest egg, should our power grid implode and ready cash become unavailable. Among the more politically minded, these colorful warehouse receipts also make an excellent vehicle of protest. Adversaries of the Federal Reserve can anonymously voice their dissent by trading with Liberty Currency.

Von NotHaus predicts that Liberty Currency will quickly vault to prominence in the event of the much-feared millennium bug. "Oh my God, it's gonna play a major role," he says.

A DOSE OF COMPETITION

NORFED advertises that its direct competition to our intractable system of commerce will result in Americans getting more bang for their buck by bringing "a free market currency to compete with Federal Reserve Notes." But will the cashier at 7-11 accept it? "That's phase two," answers Jim Thomas, NORFED's director of marketing. For the time being, Thomas says the growing organization is focusing on setting up a wide-ranging distribution network in all 50 states. The publisher and conspiracy researcher is optimistic about the future. "We're moving

forward faster than we thought we would. ... We'll have redemption centers in all 50 states by the first of January."

NORFED is definitely getting a response from the public. Von NotHaus estimates that Americans quickly snapped up over \$50,000 dollars worth of "Patriots" in the first 45 days of their availability. As word spreads, Thomas is devising a "multilevel" marketing program for those interested in distributing Liberty Currency. As of this writing, there are already over 60 NORFED redemption centers where these certificates can be cashed in almost 30 states, and the Indiana resident happily envisions the Liberty bills being traded from sea to shining sea. "We're going to annoy the Fed all over the country," he predicts.

LESS SENSE TO THE DOLLAR?

What does the future hold for NORFED? It may not pose a current threat to the entrenched powers, but if merchants begin accepting ALC, the political ruling classes may be forced to take notice. By supplanting the Reserve within a niche in the currency market, this highly original vehicle of protest may empower the citizenry as never before. As a recent NORFED press release states, "A government that does not control the money is a government that is much easier to control."

Von NotHaus is fervently hoping this new currency will be the driving force behind a vast citizen revolt. Whatever the outcome, one thing is for certain: NORFED currency will be treasured in the future by cultural anthropologists as yet another trenchant example of the widening chasm of mistrust between citizens and government – one of the most significant trends defining pre-millennial America.