

Feds Raid Liberty Dollar Headquarters

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It was only a matter of time! When Bernard von NotHaus, founder of the Liberty Dollar, devised a lawful method by which ordinary citizens could conveniently use silver and gold for private, voluntary barter transactions, eventually there would be some kind of "response."

The fact that such transactions are in no way illegal (at least not yet) only complicated matters. Indeed, during the first seven years after the American Liberty Dollar was first introduced in 1998, relevant agencies of government had affirmed that Mr. von NotHaus's activities were legal—even the Secret Service acknowledged this. If he had been engaged in any conduct that could be considered as counterfeiting, his business would have been shut down overnight and he would have become a long-term guest of Uncle Sam.

But Mr. von NotHaus had set his sights on the "Achilles' heel" of the bloated, out-of-control, political-petroleum-pharmaceutical-military-industrial complex too long in control of our Federal government. The arrow he had carefully crafted after retiring from 25 years as head of the Royal Hawaiian Mint was beginning to annoy.

There was another problem, too. An unwelcome Presidential candidate was drawing attention to an issue most Americans had never thought about or taken seriously. Ron Paul was now stumping for the Presidency, and millions were learning for the first time that so-called US Dollars are not dollars at all, but rather, green pieces of paper that are no longer redeemable in REAL dollars of gold or silver. While Dr. Paul was reminding the public that the Framers of our Constitution had intended gold and silver to be our circulating medium of exchange, Mr. von Nothaus was showing us how it's done. At a time when the purchasing power of Federal Reserve Notes was (and is) spiraling downward, the growing popularity of inflation-proof Liberty Dollars represented quite an embarrassment.

The first rumblings of trouble came in September 2006, as reported in the Informer, when the U.S. Mint issued a "warning" saying that using Liberty Dollar silver and gold rounds was illegal. Bernard von NotHaus immediately went to court to get an injunction against the U.S. Mint, and a declaratory judgment that the use of Liberty Dollars was indeed legal.

But the government was not content to let ordinary litigation run its course. On Wednesday, November 14, a dozen FBI and Secret Service agents descended on the Liberty Dollar office in Evansville, Indiana, and conducted a six-hour raid. They confiscated all the gold, silver and platinum on the premises, along with nearly two tons of copper \$1 pieces bearing Ron Paul's likeness, froze the Liberty Dollar's bank accounts, and also seized all computers and files. In a concurrent action, the Feds raided the Sunshine Mint warehouse in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, seizing all of the silver and gold that backed the negotiable warehouse receipts, digital (electronic) Liberty Dollars, and even the dies used to mint the silver and gold Libertys.

Reaction in the Patriot community was fast and furious. Even the mainstream media weighed in with some surprisingly fair commentary that viewed the raid with a critical eye. The release of the 38-page affidavit written by FBI Agent Andrew Romagnuolo added to the skepticism. "Where's the crime?" many were asking because the affidavit provided nothing in the way of an answer.

Agent Romagnuolo mostly laid out a summary of his two-year adventures investigating the Liberty Dollar. He informed the magistrate that Mr. von NotHaus had sold him a shirt with lettering that was unflattering to the U.S. Mint. Agent Romagnuolo's crack investigating also revealed that Mr. von NotHaus drove a luxury car (Cadillac), and even transported gold and silver in the trunk when driving around the country giving seminars . . . duh! This was all fascinating, to be sure, but it didn't really add any substance to back up serious allegations of money laundering, mail fraud, or wire fraud, all of which were mentioned as spectres in possible future haunts. What exactly had Mr. von NotHaus done, and where was the evidence? Why, after seven years, had the government suddenly done an about-face and alleged wrongdoing on the part of Mr. von NotHaus?

As we go to press, Mr. von NotHaus has not had any criminal charges filed against him. If charges are eventually filed and it becomes a criminal case, he would (only then) have the opportunity to defend himself. In the meantime, he and hundreds of others have been ripped off and are suffering unjustly because of the government's seizure. It was done under "color of law" utilizing unconstitutional "asset forfeiture" statutes which are an increasingly dangerous tool, ripe for abuse.

In the meantime, Mr. von NotHaus and nearly 4,000 Liberty Dollar users have joined in a wrongful seizure lawsuit demanding return of the seized assets. Most, if not all of the gold and silver seized in the warehouse raid did not in fact belong to Mr. von NotHaus or his organization; it belonged to everyone in possession of any warehouse receipts or digital dollars. It is their property that was taken! Anyone in possession of even a single receipt, or digital e-Liberty can join the class-action suit at www.libertydollar.org.

The government's seizure accomplished nothing except to anger a lot of innocent people trying to protect themselves from the FED's inflationary policies. As for the Liberty Dollar? It is alive and well and more popular than ever. Mr. von NotHaus has introduced a brand new 2008 Liberty Dollar. It is now available from many of the Liberty Dollar Regional Currency Offices. Regional Currency Officers are stamping their local hallmarks on these new Silver Libertys, and the specie itself is marked in a way to further emphasize its nature as a private, voluntary barter currency (PVBC).

The issues involved in this controversy, however, go far beyond the Liberty Dollar. They go to the heart of our constitutional right to own precious metals, and to use them as items to barter with. The real threat to the FED's fiat currency is not Mr. von NotHaus or the business he runs: but the paradigm he has established. His model can be implemented by anyone in any community. By setting a commonly accepted criteria whereby the "manufacturer's suggested retail price" (MSRP) of a base weight of privately minted silver pieces would be adjusted as the "spot price" of silver increases, silver can readily be used in ordinary daily transactions, trading unit-for-unit alongside Federal Reserve Notes. This model can be applied to gold and other metals as well. Therein lies the real danger to the FED's unconstitutional monetary system. Bernard von NotHaus has shown how the People themselves can use precious metals as mediums of exchange, as contemplated in the Constitution, thus reasserting their control over this most vital element of self-governance. It would break the stranglehold of the monopolistic private banking cartel we call the Federal Reserve, which is neither federal nor has any reserves.

Thus, even if Mr. von NotHaus and the Liberty Dollar were taken out of the picture, that paradigm remains. And the only way to stop it would be to go the full route, banning all forms of barter transactions and, perhaps, even repeating the 1933 seizure of gold engineered by Franklin Roosevelt (the man who, as Dr. Sam Francis reminded us, "remains our archetypal enemy"). We must never forget that for over 40 years thereafter, it was illegal for citizens to own gold.

What is really at stake here? We totter on the precipice of something unthinkable! The implications are dire! Unless we reverse course, it may soon be illegal for you to buy or sell anything unless you are part and parcel of the globalist monetary system being planned. Is this the monetary system spoken of in Revelation? We don't know. But we do know we don't want to be a part of it, and neither do you. The greatest of Patriots, from John Taylor of Caroline to John R. Rarick, have repeatedly warned us what will happen if the People lose control of their money. We are now entering the final phase of a long and insidious plan where these warnings are ignored at our deadly peril.

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(PHOTO CAPTION) Liberty Dollar founder Bernard von NotHaus discusses the raid on CNBC's Kudlow & Co.

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UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT...
ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 1933 all GOLD COIN. GOLD BULLION, AND GOLD
CERTIFICATES

(CAPTION UNDER "EXECUTIVE ORDER" ABOVE) FDR's 1933 order confiscating all privately owned gold: could it happen again?

(PHOTO CAPTION) The 2008 Silver Liberty. The reverse is marked MSRP—Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price, and PVBC—Private Voluntary Barter Currency.