

# In Ron Paul We Trust?

Federal agents raid a "sound money" organization, taking 60,000 "RonPaul dollars."

By Staff writer  
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[EVANSVILLE IN] Many U.S. Presidents grace coins. But what about Presidential contenders? Not so fast, say federal agents, who raided the headquarters of a group that produces and circulates illegal currency, seizing gold, silver and two tons of copper pieces featuring Presidential hopeful Ron Paul.

The National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act & Internal Revenue Code (NORFED) has produced an estimated \$20 million of its own paper money in the past two decades, claiming its \$1, \$5 and \$10 denominations are backed by silver stored in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Federal agents also raided the group's storage facilities in Idaho, NORFED founder Bernard von NotHaus says.

The November raid occurred as NORFED employees were preparing to mail out the first batch of about 60,000 "Ron Paul dollars," copper pieces sold for \$1 and bearing a bust of Paul. The Libertarian Texas congressman, Iraq war opponent and sound-money advocate has launched a vigorous outsider campaign for the Republican Party nomination. In recent months, the group has shipped out about 10,000 in silver Ron Paul dollars that sold for \$20 each.

"People aren't going to get their orders, and they aren't going to get them for a while," von NotHaus says. That's good news for those already holding the pieces. On eBay, the \$20 silver Ron Paul dollars recently were selling for more than \$170.

Paul's campaign says it did not authorize production of the dollars. "We have no connection with that," says Jesse Benton, a Paul spokesman. "We didn't... sanction it or give permission in any way."

**(PHOTO CAPTION)** A "sound money" group sold more than 10,000 \$20 silver pieces before its offices were raided last November.  
Not Actual Size