AMERICAN OPINION

WHAT IS MONEY?

by

Robert Welch

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Foreword . . .

> *There are only two people in the world who understand money, and I do not know who the other one is.*
>
> Your Editor

We did not originate the above wisecrack. We have merely appropriated it to serve our present need.

That need is to have our readers blow the smoke out of their eyes and look squarely at some realities behind all of the phantasmagoria they have been seeing, in a carefully stage-managed and brilliantly deceptive show called *Money*.

An incredible amount of obfuscation about money has been deliberately contrived, increasingly in our modern world, by demagogues and crooks and fools who could use this fog to their advantage. But in its essence money is one of the most majestically simple devices ever developed by man for making civilization more worthwhile than savagery or barbarism. When Tacitus said of the German aborigines, nearly two thousand years ago, "we have taught them to accept money," he was boasting justifiably of this step towards bringing the benefits of civilization to some barbarian tribes.

Money, when allowed to function according to the intents and purposes which brought it into existence, enables any social organization to provide its citizens with more comforts, more security, and at the same time more individual freedom, than is possible without this medium of exchange. Yet money has now been made, by an extremely powerful and self-perpetuating clique of

Conspirators, into one of the three great weapons for gradually imposing their brutal and merciless tyranny on the whole body of mankind. Their other two weapons, forged and used with equal ruthlessness, are *war* and *hatred*. But in this brief essay we must stick to our single subject.

Despite the joking pretense at the beginning of these pages, we make no claim to any professional knowledge of monetary economics. Nor shall we attempt any dissertation on details of the contemporary fiscal policies of central banks, socialist governments, and international cartels. In the fable of the emperor's clothes, however, while all of the glowing compliments were being paid by courtiers and ambassadors to his supposedly magnificent raiment, it was not the best tailor of the realm but a simple child who saw and blurted out the plain truth that the emperor was really naked. And so, with the blunt directness of the child in the fable, we want to point out a few basic facts about money that any high school senior should be able to see and to understand.

I. Fundamentals . . .

Emulating some far wiser men, about even more important matters, we hold the following truths to be self evident.

1. Money first came into use as an intermediate convenience in transactions of barter. One of the earliest but widely used forms of money consisted of cattle. Even our modern word *pecuniary* derived from the fact that *pecunia* was the Latin word for cow. And our word *fee*, meaning the payment for a service, is etymologically the same as the German word *Vieh*, meaning cattle. As a medium of exchange cows offered the advantage that their meat and their milk were almost universally desired. Also, there was not as much variation in the value of individual cows as in that of horses or of wines; and cows automatically contributed a certain though limited amount of mobility to their usefulness as money.

A very primitive Roman, therefore, might logically have converted whatever he wanted to sell into as many cows as he could get for it; and then at his convenience, with plenty of time to bargain, have converted some or all of those cows into whatever he wanted to buy. And the lesson we should learn from this small item of history is that *cattle became a satisfactory medium of exchange because of their own intrinsic value.*

2. Both an essential part and a comparative measure of civilization, however, is the division of employment. It came to pass that one man would spend his life making shoes, another his life in raising sheep, and another his in writing books. And so on, for hundreds of occupations, to meet all the needs and desires of civilized men. For such specialization greatly increased the productive capacity of individuals, and thus raised the standard of living of everybody.

But this system required that every man exchange most of what he produced for the various products of scores of other men. For this interchange to become both widespread and efficient, one generally acceptable intermediary article, as a common denominator of values, was a vital necessity. In the course of this development it was inevitable that at some point metals would come to be used as such a medium of exchange; that in time these metals would be minted into uniform pieces, or coins; and that eventually the most precious metals, such as gold and silver, would displace iron and copper and lead for this purpose.

Of course the process was slow. And as civilizations rose and fell in succession, each one usually made some progress beyond what had been accomplished by its predecessors. Since we began our story in the historical middle of things (as favored by Homer and praised by Horace!), we should pause here to point out that metal had been used for what we now call money during a great many centuries before the early Romans, starting on their road to catch up with and surpass prior civilizations, were still using cattle for that purpose.

Lumps of silver, uncoined and unstamped, which therefore had to be weighed for every transaction, were the standard currency of the Babylonians some two thousand years before the Romans even began to employ copper as their medium of exchange. And the precious metals were already being minted into coins of a fixed weight, apparently first in Lydia, a considerable time before that process was started in Italy. (In the temple of the Roman goddess, Juno *Moneta,* from which circumstance our words *money* and *mint* are both derived.)

But the eventual hegemony of gold in this competition was inevitable. Gold had too many points of superiority over all other commodities, and even over all other metals. It was sufficiently malleable and easy to work into the desired shape. Because of its scarcity, its beauty, and its usefulness, a great deal of exchange potential for the things that men desire could be represented by quite a small bit of gold. The value of a particular piece was not affected by its shape, nor by variations in its geological structure, as was the case for diamonds. Its mobility, in proportion to its worth, was tremendous in comparison with that of lead or copper. And the total supply could never be increased so rapidly as to change the relation of values between gold and all the things it would buy, too drastically, in too short a period of time.

So, in due course, gold became the most universally accepted medium of exhange. With the tradition of its extreme desirability over thousands of years to support its position. The value of all other goods and services, even including such other materials as copper and silver, were increasingly expressed in ounces or units of gold. And money came to consist of gold and, mainly for convenience in smaller transactions, subsidiary coins of other metals which could be exchanged for gold according to evaluations that were increasingly standardized. A certain quantity of gold could be traded, almost anywhere in the civilized world, for a certain quantity of almost any other possession of man. And this was not because some government decreed that this should be the case, but because there were plenty of individuals or groups willing to exchange these other things for gold. So again let us note that gold achieved this acknowledged place in the commercial scheme of things, as the supreme form of money, *entirely because of its own intrinsic value.*

3. The next step was natural and easy. When a man sold valuable property, or otherwise accumulated a considerable amount of gold, he needed some place to put it for safe keeping. So a few men here and there established storage vaults to serve that need, and issued warehouse receipts for the gold that was put in them. It then became possible, and gradually became customary, for such warehouse receipts, issued in standard denominations, to be used in most large transactions instead of the gold itself. It also became possible, and gradually normal, for a man who

needed some of his gold simply to write an order on the warehouse for a certain amount of that gold to be delivered to a designated person.

Out of these customs evolved the use of paper money, originally stating that such and such a bank "will pay to the bearer on demand" a certain amount of gold; also the writing of checks, and the whole system of banking which we know today. For in due course many of the operators of these warehouses (or banks, as they came to be known) made a pleasing discovery. They found that if a hundred clients each left a hundred thousand dollars worth of gold in the bank's vaults, under normal conditions only a small fraction of those clients ever wanted to withdraw their gold, or any sizable part of it, at any one time.

So the original warehouse receipts were superseded by these "promises to pay," in the form of paper money in various denominations. These dollar bills and ten-dollar bills and others were simply circulated hand to hand, or were themselves deposited (as the equivalent of gold) in banks to the credit of their owners. And a bank could safely issue thirty or forty million dollars worth of such standardized "promises to pay," or paper money, against ten million dollars worth of gold in its vaults. Or even against sound demands for gold which it might have on hand against larger banks (or against the Treasury of the United States).

There was nothing morally or commercially wrong with this practice, however, so long as it was in the hands of honest and prudent people. It became a purely contractual arrangement, of the same kind as when a manufacturer commits himself to deliver on some date, months ahead, quantities of some product which he has not yet made or for which he has not yet even purchased the raw materials. The other parties to the contract are depending on the assets and the integrity of the manufacturer.

For what is so frequently overlooked by hasty critics of this procedure is that these bankers did not *give away* the extra money that they put in circulation, by any means. They received for it what they believed to be sound values in many forms, *which were worth the equivalent in gold* of the money they issued, or of the amount of credit which they set up on their books for their customers. And they made themselves responsible for the value of this money and of these credits *in terms of gold.* Every piece of paper currency, and every deposit subject to check, still represented gold, and was backed by assets which could be converted into gold if necessary.

There were some elements of risk in the situation, of course, for both the banker and his customers. Reducing many complicated variations to an immensely simplified form, let us offer the following cycle as a basic illustration. Sometimes, because of panic, or enemy invasion, or for whatever reason, many people wanted gold at once. So they would begin selling their other possessions to get the paper money with which to demand gold. The bank would begin selling its other possessions for gold with which to meet this demand. And other banks would be doing the same. This bidding for gold, with a corresponding selling pressure on all other property, drove prices steadily down.

This would go on until, at some point, very few people wanted to sell more of their possessions at these drastically lower prices, even to obtain more gold. Some would begin buying back the possessions they had sold, or others which they preferred, because of these obviously low prices. The psychology would begin to reverse itself. Increasing quantities of paper money would again be needed for normal commercial activities. Gold would begin to flow back into the bank, and the storm would be over. With heavy losses to some bankers, and to some panicky people.

But this was the kind of risk which accompanied every activity and operation of a productive and expanding economy. Human nature being what it is, the pendulum inevitably swings back and forth between advance and recession. There has never been any substitute for judgment or experience in either case. With a little more room we could point out the tremendous longrange benefits to the total economy through the service of each such depression or even panic as a catharsis to the system. Neither the benefits nor the losses, however, were due to any fault or virtue in gold as a passive medium of exchange.

Instead, there was a steadily growing usefulness to the economic organization in this employment of gold as the common denominator of values, without the gold itself having to be handled in any but a small percentage of the total transactions of commerce and industry. So long as the purchasing power of the paper money and of the checks was still based on the gold to which they could be converted, there was a solid foundation under all of the machinery of production and distribution. *For the purchasing power of the gold itself still rested, as always, on its own intrinsic value.*

II. Frauds . . .

The above illustration, however, presumed the integrity of everybody concerned, as a working hypothesis. And that, as the Roman grammarians would have said, was a condition contrary to fact. For by around 1700, when the great Bank of Amsterdam was laying the foundations and setting the example for the whole banking system that we know today, monarchs and courtiers and criminal adventurers were already dreaming up ways to use the system for cheating on a gigantic scale.

1. There are scoundrels and connivers in every field of human activity. The percentage among the ordinary garden variety of bankers is probably less than for any other major occupation. But the nature of the commodity they handle – money – is such that governments always assume the right, directly or indirectly, to control the production and distribution of that commodity for the benefit of the governments themselves. And, as we pointed out in *The Blue Book* eleven years ago, as a general rule *all* governments are thoroughly dishonest.

It is worth pausing for a paragraph to make that statement more clear and more emphatic. Practically the only exceptions to the rule occur in the case of very small pioneer governments, such as the early Roman republic – say from 500 BC to 400 BC – and the American Republic from 1790 to 1860. For the heads of such governments are more directly responsible to the people from whom they draw their power. And the more a government grows in size, the more the quantity of its agencies and its total bureaucracy increases, the more rampant becomes its dishonesty.

For the individual responsibility of the various heads of the government and of its departments is now diluted. The blame for whatever wrongdoing occurs can be spread over many shoulders. Seldom does any one man lay his reputation for integrity on the line; and actions for which he should be blamed can frequently be charged to the "mistakes" of his subordinates. All of this is true even before powerful and brilliant Conspirators insinuate themselves into high places in government, with fellow members of the Conspiracy entrenched at many levels to promote their plans and to defend their "mistakes."

Nowhere is this process carried out more cunningly, and with more disastrous results, than in connection with a nation's money. For the various dishonest aspects of the monetary features of a national economy are deliberately confused far beyond the comprehension of the ordinary citizen – and far beyond his power to correct them. But all of the infinite trickeries with regard to money, in which governments engage – or which they allow others to perpetrate provided government shares in the huge and dishonest benefits – can ultimately be analysed as falling into just one category. And that is the issue of paper money – or of bonds or book credits or other forms of "money" – *which cannot be redeemed in gold, and which does not depend for its purchasing power on the intrinsic value of the money itself.*

2. The colossal theft of hundreds of billions of dollars from the American people, through the fraudulent manipulation of the nation's money, by the Conspirators and the governments which they control, has been carried out in recent American history by the brilliant use of a patient gradualism. In 1933 Roosevelt did not remove the backing of the American dollar by gold. He merely took the first steps in that direction by making it tremendously more difficult for American citizens to convert their money into gold. At the same time he arbitrarily reduced the amount of gold the dollar represented from one twentieth of an ounce to one thirty-fifth of an ounce. This meant that by a sheer act of government tyranny, the government itself and the Federal Reserve Banks and everybody else who held gold found that gold worth seventy-five percent more one day – in terms of dollars – than it had been worth the day before! And all the great bulk of the American people, and of the ordinary banks, found themselves with dollars which were worth only a trifle over fifty-seven percent of what they had been worth the day before.

But this was only the beginning. Within a few more years, and with the help of World War II as an excuse, our government and the Federal Reserve system began, by various tricky devices, to put "money" into circulation out of all proportion to the gold actually held in vaults for its redemption. Then after the war the excuses were multiplied. Through the Marshall Plan and other forms of imperialism by the dollar (which is far worse than imperialism by the sword), our government began to spread American money, to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars, all over the world. (Three hundred billion through NATO alone, exactly as forecast by Dean Acheson in Lisbon in 1951.) And at the same time we made it easy for the recipients of these dollars, in other countries, to convert such money into *our* gold, so that the reserve in gold for the backing of our currency became grossly and visibly inadequate.

So we presently reached the point where everybody in the world, including the American people, wanted to turn their dollars into gold if possible; or if not, then into other commodities or other forms of property while the fiction was still maintained that a dollar had the intrinsic value of one thirty-fifth of an ounce of gold. And creeping inflation began to turn into galloping inflation, with disaster clearly ahead. Notwithstanding all of the deliberate "dampening" of the economy to prevent inflation (and of course this produces exactly the opposite result by reducing the quantity of goods and services available or which can be expected to be available), the cost of living in the United States rose by 6.1% during 1969. And it is rising still faster now.

For despite all of the pretenses to the contrary, and all of the esoteric nonsense (or worse) put forth in scholarly sounding academic tomes, inflation of any serious or lasting nature *is always caused, and can be caused,* by only one development. This is the issuance by a government, or through its connivance and with its permission, of money whose purchasing power does not depend on the intrinsic value of the money itself. Even in a national economy with sound money, there *can* be a sizable temporary fluctuation of prices, up or down, during booms or depressions, because of psychological and other factors which bring about retrenchments or expansions of the productive apparatus. But a continuing, growing, and increasingly disastrous inflation simply cannot occur so long as the money available, in any form, is kept within the limits where everybody knows it can be redeemed for gold. Any child can see this, just as plainly as one child could see that the emperor wore no clothes.

3. But it does not suit the purposes of the Conspirators to let you see the fire through all the clouds of smoke that they create around it. Instead they constantly find means and excuses to issue more and more money that is worth less and less. And the further our money gets away from gold, or the more remote becomes the right and then the privilege and then even the possibility of redeeming it in gold, the worse inflation will become. Some of this development is the result of stupidity, of fear, and of fools being caught up in the momentum of their own folly. But the force that really drives it forward, and that makes any return to fiscal honesty by the hard road of common sense seem almost impossible, is the deliberate carrying out of longrange plans by the International Conspiracy.

You may ask: To what end? Well, there are many major and minor purposes combined, in this particular part of the Communist strategy, with which we cannot deal in these few pages. But the most important single purpose is to pauperize the middle class. For all Communist regimes operate with a small and all-powerful oligarchy at the top, through a framework of cowering and fear-ridden bureaucracy, with some ninety-five or more percent of the population as abject slaves at the bottom. There is no more place for a middle class under a completely established Communist tyranny than there is for salesmen. A most necessary step in the establishment of such a regime is to wipe out the middle class and all of its basic opposition to the socialist concept. And the ultimate repudiation and destruction of all money values is the easiest way to eliminate the middle class.

That process is now already under way in this country, with a vengeance. We are not concerned here with determining the activist plotters behind this performance, nor with placing the blame on anybody, but only with a visible fact. Which is that, whatever else the Nixon Administration may be doing, it is right now engaged in, or a party to, the most gigantic, clever, and ruthless thievery in all human history.

There have been many similar applications of the same formula in other times and places, of course. Most instructive for ourselves was the far more rapid devastation wreaked on the German middle class by runaway inflation, during the period from 1921 through 1923. This whole development was deliberately brought on by an incredibly cruel "reparations" arrangement imposed on Germany at the Versailles Conference by Col. House. Its provisions were such that the harder the German people worked and saved, and the more they paid as reparations, the more they owed. And the German currency collapsed under the drain of such payments. What House wanted was, in broad outline, exactly what actually happened. The suffering, despair, and bitterness of the German people prepared the way for some leader like Hitler, and eventually for World War II.

All of this, of course, is hard for those to believe who have not studied the ruthless but brilliant ways of the Conspiracy over the past few generations. But the facts to support this analysis are all on the record, for anybody who wishes to study the history of that period and those events with complete objectivity. The Conspirators at that time, however, were decades away from being ready to try to impose a Communist regime on all of Germany. They had other intermediate purposes in mind. That whole operation, therefore, was not intended to be so permanently fatal as the attack now designed against the American middle class. Also, the operation was on a comparatively smaller scale, affecting a far smaller number of people and quantity of property, than the total American field about to be plowed under today.

But the really important point remains the same. This whole maneuver in Germany was made possible – as its expanded, more gradual, and more completely destructive version is made possible in the United States today – by just one means. And that means was, and is, *the power exercised by governments to put into circulation vast quantities of money of which the purchasing power does not depend on its own intrinsic value.*

III. Fallacies . . .

Whenever the dark clouds of man's crimes and follies begin to shut out the sunlight of common sense, an added problem is the abundance of suggestions which make "confusion worse confounded." For confirmation see below.

1. We are now being steered, of course, directly and rapidly, into the use of fiat money. That is, money which officially and admittedly has no value, except some theoretical credit given it by the edict of government. Of course all children know that their play money, on which they put an arbitrary and fictitious value for use in their little games, will not really purchase anything. So you might think that statesmen and economists would have as much sense about such matters as a group of children. And the sad part is that most of them do. Our most serious trouble, in this realm of human activity, is not with genuine ignorance, but with criminal intent posing as ignorance and stupidity.

There are exceptions, of course. Such an awkward substitute for gold as a commodity dollar, whereby your money would always be redeemable in certain fixed combinations of certain predetermined commodities, clearly *could* be used as an honest medium of exchange in an orderly and honest economic system. It would be a ridiculous method of circumventing the simplicity of the gold standard with infinite complications which could only be resolved by the force and power of government. Using a commodity dollar, instead of gold, seems to me like counting the legs of the sheep in a field, and then dividing by four, in order to find out how many sheep there are. But – so long as the government did not issue tremendously more paper currency than it had commodities to redeem, or than its credit would enable it to obtain commodities for this purpose – your "commodity dollar" *would still depend for its purchasing power on its own intrinsic value.*

But fiat money has no such justification, even in theory. It has never worked, except to enable profligate governments to steal vast sums from their citizens. It can never work, or have any ultimate result except to produce ineffable suffering among any people, and especially among its middle class. It can never be excused as the product of stupidity and mistakes, because its inevitable effects are too obvious and its history is too well known.

Yet today we already see many cunningly contrived expedients being used, especially in transactions by central banks and governments and international funds – and we find many more being suggested – which clearly approach the nature of fiat money. And what is worse, we read more and more proposals that fiat money, or something that amounts to fiat money under some other name, be made the official panacea for all of our fiscal troubles.

In 1964 Lyndon Johnson, serving as the voice of the Conspiracy that controlled him, stated that "Silver has become *too valuable* to be used as money." This amounted to a brazen boast by the *Insiders* that they intended to take us completely away from the use for money of anything that had any intrinsic value of its own. Every move in that direction is a deliberate crime, perpetrated by government against its own people. And the final adoption of fiat money by the United States government would constitute an almost fatal victory for the Conspirators who seek to enslave us.

2. In the meantime, however, in that shadowland between seriously inflated money and worthless fiat money, there are many proposals brought forward as remedies for our ills by people who mean very well indeed. In fact, their good intentions are exceeded only by their visible superficiality in knowledge and understanding of their subject. Since we cannot touch on even a fraction of these proposed remedies that are as bad as the disease, let's concentrate in the brief space we can spare for this topic on only one. It derives from what we might call the Vennard school, within which classification we include many propagandists who take the same approach to the problem as Wickliffe Vennard, but arrive at differing and even sometimes opposing conclusions.

For all of these theories and proposals start with the fundamental fallacy that money should be "managed," and that the solution to our troubles, as well as the elimination of intentional crime in connection with those troubles, lies simply in the determination of who does the managing. And if there is any one thing that we are trying hardest to make clear in these pages, it is the calamitous consequences of having money "managed" by anybody. The whole value of gold, or of any real money, as a medium of exchange, lies in letting it be a passive, *unmanipulated* measuring unit by which the value of other goods and services can be estimated. (The accuracy of this word here derives from its etymology, which takes us back to the days when the Romans, beginning to use copper (aes) as money, found it necessary to evaluate other commodities in terms of copper, and the Latin word *aes-timare* evolved with that meaning.) To *manage* the medium of exchange itself is to throw the whole economic system out of kilter, and into all kinds of disastrous aberrations.

This becomes obvious if you look at a few potential parallels which would be of somewhat lesser importance. Suppose the government assumed the right, and got into the habit, of changing the length of the yardstick, up or down, to the advantage of the seller or the purchaser of dry goods, right while these goods are being sold. Or suppose that the government had the right, or exercised the power, to change a pound daily by an ounce or two in either direction, right while the pound was being used everywhere in the country to determine what each purchaser owed for what he bought. The results would not be half as serious – although far more easily detected – as those produced by what your government is doing right now, every day, in its manipulation of your currency. The analogy is not flawless, but the point is very sound.

The government would do this manipulating, of course, on the grounds that it knew better than any individuals whether dry goods, or other commodities measured by the yard or by the pound, were in short supply or long supply, and thus what value of the yard or the pound would produce the best results for the economy as a whole at any given time. But the total effect would be both unfair and chaotic – exactly as it is now when the "value" of money is manipulated or adjusted. And this effect can only be eliminated, or prevented altogether, by letting gold find its own place as a common denominator among all the values which are *estimated* in its terms.

Now Vennard himself – and many of both his followers and his critics – go even further down what we consider the road of misunderstanding. For we think he even starts with a faulty premise of a different nature. Mr. Vennard is undoubtedly an honest and a patriotic man. But it seems to us that his interpretation of the fifth paragraph of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution reveals an appalling shortsightedness about the very matter with which he is dealing.

That section gives the Congress of the United States the right: "To coin Money, regulate the value thereof . . . and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures." And Mr. Vennard, if we understand him correctly, seems to feel that this bestows on Congress the right and the duty to determine the *purchasing power* of our money. If so, he is certainly underrating the sound knowledge and vast practical sense of our founding fathers. For these men well knew the utter folly of any attempt by Congress to do any such thing.

What they visibly meant by this language was that Congress should determine the size and weight and physical content of our monetary units – exactly as they would determine "the standard of weights and measures." But it would have seemed absurd to the authors of our Constitution to think of controlling or adjusting the purchasing power of those monetary units. Just as absurd as it would have seemed to keep changing the yard – once established as a measuring unit – from thirty six inches to other lengths while still calling it a yard and requiring that all contracts written in yards be enforced at the revised values of the measuring stick.

In fact, while it may be unkind to say so, Mr. Vennard's ideas in this field always remind me of the bill introduced into Congress about a hundred years ago, by some ambitious legislator, to change the value of pi from the indeterminate 3.14159 . . . to an exact 22/7. (Which is equally indeterminate, although it becomes a recurrent decimal, as this legislator probably did not realize.) We believe the Congressman pointed out just what a tremendous amount of work and worry it would save everybody, from school children to engineers, if pi be given a fixed and precise value. And the fact that this was beyond the capability of any Congress was no more obvious to him than is the impossibility apparent to Mr. Vennard of Congress rewriting the economic laws of market fluctuations.

Again it may be unkind but, to drive home our point, let us indulge in another illustration. Mr. Vennard's proposal – again so far as I understand it – seems to me to be on a par with that of the kind-hearted old lady who discovered that most railroad accidents involved the last car on the train. It was always being backed into something, or being struck by a locomotive coming up behind it. So she urgently recommended that all of these accidents and the consequent fatalities be avoided by the simple expedient of always taking the last car off of every train. And so far as we know the kind lady spent the rest of her life trying to get the railroads to adopt her suggestion.

But all of these fallacies would be completely washed away by a wave of understanding that money should not be *managed* at all; that it should have just as real value as did the cattle which were once used for money; and that the fluctuations in that value should be determined only by economic forces operating in a completely free market. This is an unmistakable lesson of history which Americans would do well to learn as fully and as rapidly as they can.

3. The next and final step in the plans of the Conspirators with regard to money is undoubtedly to absorb all the moneys of the world, including the American dollar, into one international currency. For this would be a mighty step towards bringing about that one-world slave empire which the *Insiders* intend to rule.

It is our expectation, therefore, that somewhere along the road to the repudiation and complete worthlessness of the dollar – which will have become fiat money in fact if not in name – the *Insiders* who are running this show will offer the American people, and those of all the other nations that are suffering from the same affliction, the gleaming possibility of accepting a formally established international currency as a means of achieving fiscal stability. In the beginning there most probably will be a gold reserve behind it, or the pretense of one, so as to make the opportunity seem so much more attractive.

But the gold itself will almost certainly be buried away quite soon in vaults controlled by the ruling clique. Redemption of this international currency in gold, or even any possession of gold, by private citizens, will undoubtedly be forbidden. The same process of stealing by the one government from all of its subjects, through dilution of even the supposed value of this currency, will soon begin again and will be carried out very fast. And in a comparatively much shorter period of time than it has taken to ruin the American dollar, the international currency will lose all real value completely and will become simply and solely fiat money.

This will be only one of many means by which the tyrants at the top will maintain their unceasing and brutal control over every aspect and activity of the total lives of all the men and women on earth. And if you think this is an exaggerated fear, just take a look at what has already happened in Russia, in China, in a third of the countries of the world – including Cuba right on our doorstep. For the *Insiders* are using the conduct of unending wars (of which they always control both sides), plus the fomentation of increasingly bitter hatred among all peoples (usually under the pretense of promoting brotherhood), as well as their criminal manipulation of all money everywhere, as other means to bring about this end.

IV. In Conclusion . . .

The demagogues and dupes of the Left are always prating about "human rights" against "property rights." As if they were a different breed. Which clearly shows either the ignorance or the venality of those angels of humanitarianism, because "property rights" are among the most fundamental of all "human rights." The right of an individual to own property, and to have it recognized and protected as his very own, is not just a result of civilization but is one of the primary causes for the development of civilization. And money, as the measuring unit of all property, has become an immeasurably important ingredient of this total development. Any destruction, therefore, of the function and usefulness of money, is a part of the return to feudal "dark ages" which Communism, if successful, will surely produce.

What is more, this theme is true even in its partial applications. For the freedom of men and the freedom of money have run an almost exact parallel throughout all recorded history. Whenever the entirely free use of money as a medium of exchange between human desires has been lessened by the introduction of price controls and ration cards and similar devices; whenever and to whatever extent a sound currency, as an honest medium of exchange, has been manipulated and managed and weakened by government dilution and thievery; in all such cases the freedom of men has always been correspondingly impaired.