

Who are these People?

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Q: I have a \$1 bill on which a message was stamped in red ink. "I am issued by a private run-for-profit corporation. Printed for nothing. Backed by nothing. . . <http://www.libertydollar.org/>."

Any idea who these people are? And is it illegal to deface currency?

— M. Cunningham

A: These people are the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act. They issue something called liberty currency — dollars and coins.

It is illegal to render a bill unfit, but printing a message on a bill does not render it unusable. You can still put it in a vending machine for example, says James Wagoner, resident Secret Service agent. Most banks will probably pull a bill marked like this from circulation when it hits the till.