

Liberty Dollar - letters to editor

By persons noted below
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'Illegal currency' debate has no merit

To the editor:

The real issue here is constitutional, not criminal, and I commend the Courier & Press for encouraging public dialogue. I don't think the Federal Reserve's argument against the Liberty Dollar as being "illegal currency" has merit.

People are free to do what they want with the products they buy. If I were trying to sell my truck and would rather have a boat, I'd tell people I'd be willing to trade or "barter" for a boat. The deal would be completely voluntary, and the Liberty Dollar is no different. It isn't counterfeit because it doesn't claim to be money.

The real issues with the Liberty Dollar are the questions they bring to the table and the statement they are trying to make with the product they sell.

What is money, and why is the value of the dollar going down? If the Constitution states only gold and silver are legal tender, why does our paper money say it is legal tender and is backed only by the "faith and goodwill" of the U.S.? These are very important questions everyone should ask. These questions are affecting everyone's lives through a hidden tax known as inflation. The only presidential candidate with anything to say about this is Ron Paul. I suppose that is why Bernard von NotHaus decided to put his likeness on the product.

Phil Schmitt Evansville

Ignoring rules causes decline of values

To the editor:

For more than 200 years, there has never been anyone authorized to print or coin money in America other than the U.S. Mint. There has never been a question that any other currency is illegal in the market place. Who in their right mind could possibly doubt the sensibility of this? The same laws apply in every country. Any deviation from this sanity could cause serious problems in every aspect of the economy.

I don't know how this crime got started, or why any sensible person or organization would condone or participate in it. We have a lot of wonderful

freedoms in our country, but tampering with the value of legal currency is not one of them, and it never will be.

For everyone's security, our laws about money, copyrights, patents and all other property rights are for our protection. Ignoring these rules will cause a deterioration of these values, and even our freedoms. So let's get moving and end this debacle.

Chuck Frary Evansville

Feds are doing same as von NotHaus

To the editor:

If you are going to hang-, someone for making counterfeit money, you need to start at the Federal Reserve Board. The Feds have been printing "funny money" ever since the federal note came out.

There is not much difference between what Bernard NotHaus is doing and what the Feds are doing, but two wrongs do not make a right.

Don Jenkins Petersburg, Ind.

Fiasco brings up idea of conspiracy theory

To the editor:

There are many constitutional issues that surround the Liberty Dollar fiasco. Under the Constitution, the government may create currency only out of gold and silver. The Constitution does not allow for legal tender to be paper, nickel or a concoction of worthless metals. The Liberty Dollar follows this law; does the Federal Reserve? The answer is no.

The Fourth Amendment also states that someone must be arrested for the seizure of property. No one has been arrested in the case but two tons of metal have been taken by the government.

The Liberty Dollar has been in business for nearly 10 years. It was not until the Ron Paul dollar was issued this summer that a crackdown began. The libertarian platform and Ron Paul's Republican platform call for an end to the FBI because it does not have jurisdiction under the Constitution — the raid was done by a government agency that would be dismantled under a Paul administration. I'm not one for conspiracy theories, but this piece of information is enlightening.

Better yet. this soapbox is on the day Ron Paul's supporters hope to raise \$10 million,

although some rough estimates suggest that \$6 million may be the total for today's commemoration of the Boston Tea Party. Paul's call for the end of

government bureaucracy and the federal income tax is starting to win over a large percentage of the population..

Jordan Wathen
Evansville

Liberty Dollar works, so let's legalize it

To the editor:

No matter what one's opinion is about the Liberty Dollar, there is no doubt that it worked as advertised. While the U.S. dollar dropped to record lows, the purchasing power of the Liberty Dollar doubled.

Businesses report the use of the Liberty Dollar allowed them to maintain inventory and employment levels while avoiding taking on more debt. Consumers report they were

able to keep up with the rising prices of gas and other items. Because sales tax is handled in the same way for Liberty Dollar transactions as for those in U.S. dollars, local and state revenues rose accordingly. If this truly is illegal, let's legalize it and save our economy!

Frank Findley Boonville

Raid was timed for maximum damage

To the editor:

I researched the printed article from your paper and concluded the Liberty Dollar raid was openly illegal and was well timed for maximum damage.

There is no rule of law when men with guns can do whatever they like. So what now? Should you hide your gold or silver?

My dad often said (with a smile), "Be a good German and shut up."

I understand now.

Jim Redding Evansville

FBI should return property to owners

To the editor:

During their raids on the Liberty Dollar offices in Evansville and Sunshine Minting in Idaho, the FBI seized property that it should not have.

In Evansville it seized more than 2 tons of copper Ron Paul commemorative dollars. These presidential campaign marketing materials were not subject to the

U.S. Mint warning, nor were they explicitly cited in the seizure affidavit. They were already paid for by customers and thus weren't the property of the Liberty Dollar.

In Idaho the FBI confiscated all the silver, gold and platinum backing the Liberty Dollar paper and electronic currency. In a letter to Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, the U.S. Mint stated that this currency was not subject to the proscribed laws. These precious metals were lawfully owned by individuals other than the Liberty Dollar offices and were simply stored at the Idaho mint.

The Ron Paul dollars and metals backing the currency should be returned to their owners. It is encouraging to know Rep. Brad Ellsworth is pursuing a congressional inquiry with the FBI on having this property returned. We residents of the 8th District who had our assets absconded owe Ellsworth a word of thanks.
Tom Tindle Evansville

Fragile money system sees it as competition

To the editor:

The Liberty Dollar is most certainly not an illegal currency! Money is valuable only if it is accepted in exchange. However misguided an idea it is to try to compete with the U.S. dollar, it is in no way against the law. The government is definitely overreaching its bounds by bringing legal action against Bernard von NotHaus.

The Liberty Dollar isn't meant to be a direct substitute for the U.S. dollar.

It is simply an alternative to the current fiat money that might be a little bit more stable, since it's backed by actual commodities.

It might prove to be a good investment if the Liberty Dollar ever gains widespread acceptance as a replacement for the U.S. dollar.

Any legal action brought against this idea is wrong and is merely the government's way of stifling any competition with its fragile monetary system.

Jordan Dant

Indiana State University student Terre Haute, Ind.