## Life, liberty and the pursuit of loot

By: Phil Lucas, Executive Editor Panama City News Herald September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The trolls of the U.S. Mint sought to devour a fair maiden of liberty this month.

Liberty is the enemy of government. In the name of liberty governments fall. Since government perpetuates itself at any cost, including pillage, rape and slaughter, as the War of Northern Aggression proved, followed closely and logically by the heroic campaign to exterminate the Plains Indians, liberty is a threat.

Rebels of any stripe must be dispatched to carve the bloody path of government progress.

Therefore, government strives to quash liberty. In so doing, it chains citizens in servitude to the state.

This benefits the wealthy minorities who control government and divide the spoils of its corrupt redistributionist largesse.

Ah, the rewards of two-party statism. Somebody's getting rich, and it's not you.

Where do they get the money?

Sensing a threat to government's bluntest instrument in the bludgeoning of liberty and its primary source of loot, the Mint fired upon an outfit called NORFED, which is minting "Liberty Dollars" of gold and silver and printing paper bills backed by bullion.

NORFED stands for "National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Code."

Any objections so far?

The company wants citizens to use Liberty Dollars in barter, in place of the fiat coin and currency of the realm, the base-metal trinkets and paper Federal Reserve Notes in our pockets.

The problem for government is Liberty Dollars are backed by gold and silver as our Constitution requires (Article I, Sections 8 and 10).

The Mint implies NORFED is committing a crime.

Meanwhile, government manufactures coins and currency backed by nothing of value, which the Founding Fathers feared.

Who is committing the crime?

The Constitution has been a problem for government expansion. After all, rebels wrote it.

To get around its money restrictions Congress created the Federal Reserve in 1913, allowing a quasi-private banking cartel to mass-produce paper money since government could not.

The result?

An ounce of gold or silver will buy today what it would buy 93 years ago, but a Federal Reserve Note, under the stunning stewardship of the Fed, won't buy squat.

Put another way, back then a \$20 gold ounce and a \$20 Federal Reserve Note would both have bought 10 pairs of sensible shoes. Today, a gold ounce will still buy 10 pairs of shoes, while a \$20 bill might get you a used shoe for one foot and a cheap sock for the other.

We might argue the historical curiosities of why the Fed was created, but the result is without question: massive government expansion, catastrophic debasement of our money and skyrocketing prices, all made possible by government abandonment of the hard-money gold standard.

Hard money and liberty go hand-in-hand.

When government debases the dollar for which you labor, then it robs a piece of your time and your life, as well as your liberty to apply yourself to your own ends free of the coercion of others.

Further, government has reduced your ability to pursue whatever happiness you might.

Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness rest upon hard money, upon gold, a finite commodity that government cannot produce at will; a medium of fair exchange untouchable by the greed of ruling elites.

An idea such as NORFED's threatens the oppressive apparatus by which a majority of Americans are robbed so a minority can be enriched.

Flags burn. Governments collapse. People perish.

Gold, like the idea of freedom itself, lasts forever.

Freedom demands a return to the gold standard. Our government and its economists may deride it as a barbaric relic but, among the ruling class, liberty has never been a popular idea.