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updates on the insane world of money and power

*The United States is a Long Way from Home*

In 1956, when my family made the move from Toronto to Los Angeles, the main road crossing the country was Route 66, a good stretch of which we travelled. My parents wanted us kids to see the country so we didn't just draw a line on a map to LA—instead we saw the South, and Texas, taking weeks to get across. What I remember most were the small towns—Route 66 was a dotting of small towns, and there were even more towns on the secondary roads. Each town had an economy. There were few chainstores—maybe a Sears or a Woolworths, but mostly small businesses owned by someone who lived in the town, hired the locals—and cared about the welfare of those families.

A fair way to define our problem today, is how far down the road from *small to bug* we have travelled, and what has happened to Americans along that road. By way of analogy, think on the present condition of the US, essentially, as being similar to what happened in those small towns as they were bypassed by the interstates, and placed outside of the game. Cut off from commerce, and caught in a process where small businesses were replaced by corporate outlets—controlled by individuals who were not local, or even national, and having no connection with Americans who lived in those towns. As a consequence, America was being largely divested of entrepreneurial spirit that had made us a great nation.

What are mileposts along the road from *small to big*? Along the way, we lost sound money, and we are losing the Bill of Rights. Jefferson and the founders wanted the dollar to be an expression of a measure of gold or silver, which was feasible at the time because our nation was new and not heavily indebted. But now, even given an assumption that a gold standard is a necessity, we cannot get back there without first settling the debt—which is not feasible. Consequently, were we to return to a gold standard, voluntarily, there would be factors needing to be overcome that the founders did not have to contend with.

For instance, economist Judy Shelton, who has been considered for a Fed seat, has softened her view that a return to gold is what's needed, and she has likely adopted that view because a gold standard is the least acceptable policy for *big* government. And, when Jim Sinclair offers that we may get a gold standard, but not one that is convertible (currency swapped for gold), he is likely cor-

rect, but it is unfortunate that we have debased, even the idea of a currency, to a position of non-convertibility. Meanwhile, Ms. Shelton opts for the tactic that we ease into gold by adopting 5 and 10 year gold bonds, payable in gold at the end of term. Imagine the US government on the hook for a bond based on \$1750 gold, with a \$50K gold price at the due date. We just print it—right?

Any US gold-standard speculation is based on having gold in our vaults—thought it has not been audited since the 1950's, and has been leased-out many times—making it unlikely we get any of it back. Any global gold standard would be based on having the gold you say you have, and Steve Mnuchin telling the world that our gold looks to be what it is said to be, will not function as an audit. It was suggested to me on a phone call today that we could simply print enough money to buy the needed gold to back our currency. Consider the damage we have done to the long-term purchasing power of the dollar with just the multi-trillions of dollars we have printed these past weeks. So where will this gold come from? For decades, gold has transferred from weak hands to strong hands, hands that do not see gold as an investment with a price at which they will sell. Instead, the transfer has been made to strong national hands who expect that whoever holds the gold will hold the power. Under that scenario, there is not enough Fed funny money to acquire even a portion of the needed gold.

*Small to big*—think about it in terms of the Bill of Rights—beginning with the 1st Amendment. Freedom of speech—but not online or at any Ivy League college. Freedom of assembly—but not in any state with a despotic governor setting standards concerning American's rights regarding the freedom of movement. Freedom of the press— but not in any corporate (*big-government*, controlled network), or online where speech is curtailed more with each passing week.

Why are we losing these freedoms? Lost in the transition from *small to big*? Many Americans are afraid and dependent on big government and big corporations to feed their families. And our leaders are dependent on polls for re-election. You think for a minute that Trump does not recognize Google as the oppressive monster it is? But he can't go after it directly because Americans would be lost without it. It's the same with Amazon, which has done more to bring ruination to the flyover states, and everywhere for that matter, than any other single entity. Presidents trade our freedoms for poll numbers—monopolies for now, are safe.

I'm just getting going here but my two pages are filled up, so I will stay with this tonight and tomorrow, because, even while we search out actual fixes for the mess we are in, each instance where we have to trust the integrity of the liars who are the elite, we are signing up for ongoing shenanigans and malfeasance. Are some of our rights more important to defend than others? The right to sound money? Free speech? 2nd Amendment. Our right to privacy. All of them, but how did we get to this gruesome place—and how do we get back home? Tomorrow.

Whether or not the US has any gold holdings is the plot for, *The Audit*—my novel, which can be found online (at no cost), at [neverhadaboss.com](http://neverhadaboss.com).

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