

A DANGEROUS COMBINATION

There's a disturbing trend occurring that I don't think most people know about, and if they truly understood the consequences, there'd be 30 million Americans marching to our nation's capital.

Over the past year, the global economic system seems to have been barely staying afloat, and the longer time goes on, the more often it sinks beneath the surface for just a bit. Sometime soon, we're going to see its last gasp of air.

To stave off this inevitable collapse of the current Ponzi scheme, countries around the world have been manipulating their financial markets and taking unprecedented steps in experimenting with negative interest rates.

In the old days, when you put your money in the bank, the bank paid you interest on your money because you trusted it enough to store your wealth there. Negative interest rates are just the opposite: Now, the banks are charging their customers a fee just to be able to see a teller, and they are wanting to charge customers a percentage of what's in their banking account.

They're already doing it in a few countries. It's already made news that the Federal Reserve (for the United States) has already been contemplating instituting a negative interest rate. That doesn't seem like too much of an issue, right? Keep enough in the bank to pay the bills, and stash the extra cash someplace else.

But here's the rub: During the last 12 months, there's been a big push to switch from paper currency to a digital currency. That way, the banks and the government can track your every movement, observe every transaction and tax every single "dime" you spend.

Think that's an exaggeration? France already bans transactions that exceed 1,000 euros, and just recently, three separate papers have been released that propose the eradication of the \$100 bill here, in the United States. It's the first step to taking cash out of the currency system and moving everyone to a digital system.

Hey, wait a minute! What about those negative interest rates? That's right. Once everyone is moved to a digital currency system, there will be no cash to keep outside the bank. Therefore, you will have no choice but to pay the negative interest rates, because you will be forced to use a bank that will keep a record of your digital money. In essence, you'll be paying for a bank to store nothing but a few lines of information, and you'll have no choice in the matter. Pretty convenient for them, huh?

Instead of just printing more paper that devalues the dollar, the Federal Reserve could just add a couple of zeroes to the nation's monetary supply and devalue each unit of currency even more—and do it much more quickly. Sheesh, the printing presses must be taking too long to spit out dollars that weren't a result of actual production or economic growth.

What's the answer? I'm not sure, especially when it comes to someone else's financial situation. I stock some precious metals, but possession of gold could be outlawed again, just as in 1933, when President Roosevelt recalled gold with executive orders. Even though you stock up on supplies, maybe stocking up even more would put your money to good use. That's one thing I'm thinking about.

Most importantly, though, is to pay attention to business news and anything that has to do with our nation's currency. Maybe we'll get some clues ahead of time and know which moves to make with our wealth so that we get maximum benefit out of it. That way, it won't be locked in a bank's computer to be assessed fees and then appropriated by federal officials for a massive bailout attempt when the house of cards finally begins to collapse. **ASG**

