

NEW MILLENNIA COUNTDOWN

Imagine A Cashless Society

By Don Hof
Contributing Writer

Y2K poses a problem for financial institutions handling your money. We live in a very complex society where there aren't any guarantees to what may happen to our money. Gold and Silver are no longer the dominant form of money. Bookkeeping and paper have long replaced it. Money has been redefined by the market place.

First, it is generally believed that, worldwide, thirteen families own and control the IMF (International Monetary Fund). They are the lenders to many governments and federal banks around the world. These families control about 1/3 of the world's money, which is distributed mostly through electronic transfers.

Secondly, state governments, with the power to tax, own or control about 1/2 of the world's wealth. This is mostly in the form of real property. They collect property taxes on held property. State government has a great deal of power and wealth; however, that control doesn't mean that the politicians own it.



Finally, we come to the wealth of the people. The people and private businesses (businesses not owned by governments) own about 1/5 of the world's wealth. Most of this is through contractual ownership of real property. Some of the largest businesses in the world are owned and operated by the officers and employees. A number of them are household names. Also, private investors own a number of other businesses and property.

By now you may wonder what does this have to do with the Y2K fix and your money? A whole lot. The sooner businesses and government get their act together the better off people will be financially. If your money vanishes in some electronic hole somewhere you would be insolvent. This leads me to the next form of business. This form is a practice of trading goods and services with other businesses without the use of money.

In the Portland area and most of the world barter is practiced. The largest governments on down to the smallest business or individual uses barter. The reason that it is still a large part of our culture is that it is not dependent on money. No matter how poor the economy is, barter thrives. There are thousands of bar-

ter clubs in the world and many that is not. There is hundreds of barter clubs in this country. One of the exchanges in the Portland area is the Cascadia Hour Exchange (CHE). They have excellent guidelines that make up the principles and concepts that CHE participants agree to. They are as follows:

1. Cascadia Hour Exchange stimulates local business by recycling our wealth that is backed up by real capital, skills, goods, and services.

2. Participation in the Cascadia Hour Exchange (CHE) opens the door to meet new opportunities. It also builds rich and rewarding friendships and creates better local economic communities. A community based on high values of ethics, integrity and standards that develop deep trust in one another.

3. Participation is free.
4. CHE scrip is traded directly with all other participants.

5. CHE scrip may be traded for certificates with approved application.

6. The CHE scrip trades without fees or dues.

7. This scrip is a valuable accounting technique to keep track of your trade of goods and services as well as your time.

8. Each participant is responsible for his or her own accounting and taxes, as required by law.

9. Each participant that takes part in a transaction shall determine the percentage of CHE scrip, certificates, or cash involved.

10. CHE scrip is as good as the participant involved. Therefore, provide quality goods and services.

11. CHE participants are not required to take part in the CHE events. Anyone that provides goods or services may receive and use the CHE scrip.

12. You alone are responsible for any trade that you may make. At all times you are responsible for your actions.

The about CHE guidelines give an excellent overview of how businesses interlock in supporting the economic strength of a community. No business can survive for long without other businesses and the consumers buying their products. This is one of the main reasons why only one system of "money" doesn't work well for long by itself. In our complex society things can change very fast. Fortunately, there are many

systems in place to pick up the slack when anyone of them fails.

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