



Deutsche Edelmetall-Gesellschaft e. V. · Stockerweg 17 · 81829 München

The Honorable Richard L. Voorhees
U.S. District Judge
United States District Court for the Western
District of North Carolina
250 Charles R. Jonas Federal Bldg.
401 West Trade Street
Charlotte NC 28202
U.S.A.

Munich, January 24, 2012

Honorable Judge Voorhees,

We are writing to you from Munich, Germany re the court case of Bernard von NotHaus whose case you are about to decide upon soon. I am the co-founder of not-for-profit organization "German Precious Metal Society" [GPMS / DEG e.V. www.edelmetallgesellschaft.org].

This NGO was founded in 2006 with the main purpose of promoting gold and silver as basis of "good money". The sole monies in the world that exist completely naturally – i.e. without a need for "legal tender laws". It is especially since 2008 that we steadily gain more and more supporters for our DEG-society and for the cause of sound money which we promote by means of public events (approx. 50 to date), widely read articles in magazines, and a popular internet blog with associated discussion groups on "real money". The main reason for this huge increase in membership and support have been the financial crises in first the US and currently in Europe – which more and more people rightfully attribute to and blame on our unbacked "fiat" money system. Many people strongly believe that crises like these would not have been possible had the US Dollar (und in turn all other world currencies) not been debased August 15, 1971 by the unfortunate act of de-coupling the Dollar from gold. It is our conviction that the world would have been better off had Nixon kept the link to gold – thereby sticking to gold as natural money – and also the constitutional money according to the US constitution / Section 10.

We of course understand that Bernard von NotHaus has probably done wrong in that he used the name of the official US currency (the "Liberty DOLLAR"). Whilst this may be reason to sentence a person – we would like to point out that -to our knowledge- no one suffered any harm from him using the name "Dollar" or by using real silver as money (which it is by its very nature and has been for 5000 years). In addition, in most countries it is legal to fabricate private medallions made from gold or silver or otherwise.

Thereby in the narrow meaning and wording of US-laws Bernard von NotHaus may be guilty of "brand infringement" by using the term "Dollar". We however fail to recognize any damage he has done to anybody or any harm he has done to the spirit of the US constitution or to nature by emitting silver medallions as money. Gold and silver coins/medallions are natural

money even if they do not bear a mark called “Dollar” or “Euro” or “Rand” or “DeutscheMark”. In fact – up until 1914 (when Germany and basically all developed nations emitted coins made from precious metal) it was almost unnecessary to print a number or a denomination on the coin (e.g. “2 Gold Marks”) – because people were interested ONLY in the weight and fineness of the coin. An ounce of pure silver or gold had a certain purchasing power – completely regardless of the currency’s name, the number printed on the coin and of the respective monarch’s face on it. It was only after 1914 (and finally after 1971) that gold/silver monies were demonetized. The world was more peaceful before 1914 than afterwards...

Whilst we certainly cannot rule out a (small) guilt of Bernard von NotHaus in the narrow meaning of the law, we fail to see any harm done here to anybody and we are sure that Bernard von NotHaus did not have any criminal intent by offering natural money to US-citizens. Actually we do not even believe (without knowing it for sure) that the emission of “Liberty Dollar” medallions with a face value close to or identical to the material value would have been a good “business case” for Bernard von NotHaus. It is therefore even doubtful that he expected to make a profit. Similar organizations here in Europe all work on a not-for-profit basis – most of them exist for purely altruistic reasons and certainly without any criminal intent!

For all these reasons we ask you for a mild sentence for Bernard von NotHaus, if any at all. For our members of DEG-e.V.-NGO he is definitely not a criminal but someone with a good and altruistic feeling for history and gold/silver as natural money. People like him should not be in prison.

Respectfully



Peter Boehring, Director
on behalf of German Precious Metal Society / DEG e.V.