

MONEY MATERIAL MATTERS

Can you imagine using a tool on practically a daily basis for the first 20 years of your life and one day the material that the tool is made of is changed and unknowing of that change you continue using that tool and never notice or even learn of the change for the following **60 years!?** That might lead you to think that maybe the material of the tool doesn't matter as long as it works, right?

Well, just the other day I met a man, 79 years of age, who runs an automotive repair shop in southern Oregon who that happened to!

The tool I'm referring to, of course, is money. Money, as I see it, is the tool used to store our labor and also the tool, and means, by which one pays any taxes they are liable for and any bills for goods or services which are incurred.

Here comes the problem... When that money no longer stores the same amount of labor in the same size measure, you are losing stored wealth. The net effect is you can't purchase as much as you did previously with the same amount of money. Furthermore, now that the money is no longer of the same material, it seems to continuously purchases less and less over time whereas the original material didn't have that characteristic.

When I was in my 3rd year of life, the material that money is made of switched from silver to a mixture of base metal. Ever since that switch occurred, nearly **60 years ago**, the amount of what a quarter dollar could purchase has diminished from roughly 1 gallon of gasoline to 1 cup of gasoline or 1/16 of a gallon of gasoline. So, the current result of the material change is that it now takes 16 of those quarter dollars made of base metal to exchange for just 1 quarter dollar made of silver at my nearby precious metals merchant.

Maybe it does matter what material your money is made of after all?