



Randy L. Flink, Principal ❖ Christopher M. Gregory, Principal
Robert I. Kramer, M.D., Medical Advisor

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This past week we were reminded of the cozy relationship that exists between our government and the publicly-traded financial firms of Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase. Not only have these prominent (and reckless) Wall Street players resumed the payment of lofty performance bonuses to their employees less than a year after they received Federal bailouts, but it now seems a virtual certainty that Federal policies requiring accountability and reform on Wall Street are a pipe dream. As investment markets continue to become more incestuous and the investment playing field tilts away from the principled among us, our ability to prudently manage wealth will be undermined. Perhaps all is not lost. We have a crusader in Congressman Ron Paul, who is working hard to instill accountability and reform into the very heart and soul of the nation's financial system, the Federal Reserve Bank.

ROBBING PAUL TO PAY PETER

Some 30 years ago, Congressman Ron Paul launched his political career at the fringe. He was an early force within the national libertarian movement, which to this day advocates a greatly-reduced role of government. Today Congressman Paul wears a Republican hat. As a result of his surprisingly strong showing in the 2008 Presidential primaries, Ron Paul's fringe thinking suddenly has become a political credo for the mainstream.

Congressman Paul is a staunch advocate of the US Constitution, balanced budgets, accountability in government and a gold standard. Throughout his political career, he has chronicled the abuses of the US Constitution and been the leading spokesperson in Washington for government accountability and reform. Recently, Ron Paul mustered a majority in the House of Representatives and many in the Senate that are in favor of auditing the Federal Reserve and providing strict Congressional oversight of its policymaking. Talk about pushing a boulder from the fringe to the mainstream!

The lesson that we can learn from Congressman Paul is clear. The fringe always is the nesting ground both for radical ideas and the truth. The two often are one and the same but can be different. When radical ideas and truth migrate from the fringe to the mainstream, it means that big changes are occurring. Look no further than the personal computer, the Internet and the cell phone. Each of these radical inventions loitered at the fringe before being assimilated into the mainstream's consciousness.

When a call for accountability of this country's public and private institutions migrates from the fringe to the mainstream, we are on the verge of a new ballgame. For much of the current generation, corruption has engrained itself as the norm wherever money flows in this country. Whether it is the politicians, the financial institutions, the government contract administrators or the health insurance companies, the "rip off" mentality has mutated into a behavioral virus that normally is associated with Communist regimes and less-developed countries. Our children and grandchildren

are growing up and living in a society that has a dearth of moral fiber in its diet. This unhealthy condition correlates perfectly with the migration of debts and deficits from the fringe to the mainstream of American culture.

If the system keeps robbing Ron Paul to pay the modern-day Peter the Greats, it is entirely possible that we'll one day wake up to waves of civil disobedience perpetrated by millions of disillusioned voters. History tells us that fascism feasts on this sort of mass discontent.

At *DocOnomics*, we are watching with interest to see if a Texas obstetrician turned Congressman can deliver a miracle baby in Washington. If Ron Paul carries the day in Congress, we think gold and other precious metals will move from the fringe to the mainstream in many investment portfolios. To learn more about Congressman Ron Paul, [click on his picture](#).



Randy L. Flink
Christopher M. Gregory
Doconomics Wealth Advisors

Robert I. Kramer, M.D.
Medical Advisor

