

Liberty's Outlook

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The War Over Gold And Silver Prices Rages On!

Pg 2: Chinese Government Announces Plan To Purchase Another \$80 Billion Of Gold!

More than almost any time I can recall in my almost 40 years of trading precious metals, gold and silver trading in this past six weeks shows all the characteristics of being a war.

On one side is the US government and its allied trading partners trying to hold up the value of the dollar in the midst of massive inflationary increases in the money supply.

On the other side is everyone else, foreign central banks and governments and savvy private individuals who are looking to protect their wealth from the inevitable effects of the extreme destructive fiscal policies of the US government.

There has been a growing demand for gold and silver, including physical forms, that has pushed up prices over 250% since the early part of this decade. Only a tiny percentage of all Americans own any investment forms of gold, so there are significant prospects for an even larger surge in demand in the future.

I expect the major surge in demand will not occur until the price of gold tops \$1,000 to stay. Apparently the US government policy makers also believe this, given the current desperate measures being taken to keep gold under that threshold.

There are too many stories of what has been going on in the last month or so to cover all of them. Instead, here are several vignettes to give you an idea of the extreme measures being taken to hold down gold and silver prices.

2009 Year To Date Results

Through June 29, 2009

<i>Precious Metals</i>	
Platinum	+25.6%
Palladium	+23.0%
Silver	+21.5%
Gold	+6.2%

<i>Numismatics</i>	
US MS-63 \$20 St Gaudens	+18.2%
US MS-63 \$20 Liberty	+17.1%
US MS-65 Morgan Dollar, Pre-1921	-6.3%

<i>US Dollar vs Foreign Currencies</i>	
Japan Yen	+5.8%
South Korea Won	+1.6%
Switzerland Franc	+1.5%
Singapore Dollar	+1.4%
China Yuan	+0.2%
Hong Kong Dollar	+0.0%
Euro	-0.8%
India Rupee	-1.2%
Mexico Peso	-3.8%
Canada Dollar	-5.0%
New Zealand Dollar	-9.9%
Great Britain Pound	-11.9%
Australia Dollar	-12.0%
Brazil Real	-15.3%
South Africa Rand	-16.8%

U.S. Dollar Index 79.835 -1.8%

US And World Stock Market Indices

Shanghai Composite	+63.4%
Sao Paulo Bovespa	+38.9%
NASDAQ	+16.9%
Dow Jones World (excluding US)	+11.8%
Nikkei 225	+10.4%
Australia S&P/ASX 200	+4.4%
S&P 500	+2.7%
Russell 2000	+2.2%
Frankfurt Xetra DAX	+1.6%
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	-2.8%
London FT 100	-3.2%

10 Year US Treasury Note interest rate
3.49% +54.9%

Intrinsic Metal Value Of U.S. Coins

Lincoln cent 1959-1982	1.53¢
Lincoln cent 1982-date	0.41¢
Jefferson nickel non-silver	3.88¢
Roosevelt dime, 1965-date	1.76¢
Washington quarter, 1965-date	4.40¢
Kennedy half dollar, 1971-date	8.80¢

Skirmishes In The Battle

The effort to audit the Federal Reserve.

Rep Ron Paul (R-TX) was the 1988 Libertarian Party presidential candidate who also unsuccessfully sought the 2008 Republican Party presidential nomination. He has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives calling for an audit of the Federal Reserve System. The last I checked, this Bill had over 230 co-sponsors, which is a majority of the entire House (and also a majority of the members of the House committee to which the Bill was assigned). A

companion Bill has also been introduced in the Senate.

In the past year, Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke and other top officials have pushed for the authority to conduct their activities with far less Congressional oversight than before, and almost no public disclosure of the Fed's attempts to solve the various financial crises.

Paul's bill, if enacted, makes the Fed accountable to Congress and, to some extent, the American public. This is the exact opposite of what the

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Fed wants.

In response, the Fed announced in early June that it was hiring Linda Robertson to be its lobbyist in dealings with Congress. Robertson previously headed the Washington lobbying office of Enron and was an advisor to all three of President Clinton's Treasury Secretaries—Lawrence Summers, Robert Rubin, and Lloyd Bentsen.

Last Thursday, in testimony before Congress Bernanke went a step further. He threatened America with an economic collapse should the Fed be audited.

Bernanke testified, "My concern about the legislation is that if the GAO is auditing not only the operational aspects of the program and the details of the programs but making judgments about our policy decisions would effectively be a takeover of policy by the Congress and a repudiation of the Federal Reserve would be highly destructive to the stability of the financial system, the Dollar and our national economic situation."

I don't know about you, but it doesn't make sense to me to hand extensive political power to anyone who threatens financial terrorism against Congress and the American people.

Chinese government reveals it wants to purchase another \$80 billion in gold. Nine weeks ago, the Chinese government admitted to the mainstream media that it had added 14.6 million ounces of gold reserves from 2003 through 2009. For years, several of us non-mainstream media members had reported this activity as it was occurring.

It wasn't until about June 9 that the mainstream media was told that the Chinese government was planning to purchase an additional \$80 billion of gold. This was made public when Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) announced in on Fox News when interviewed by Greta Van Susteren.

Kirk had accompanied Treasury Secretary Geithner on his trip to China in May. While Geithner

was making a speech, Kirk was engaged in a private conversation with lesser Chinese officials. These officials told Kirk they were extremely concerned about the likely near term decline in the value of the US dollar. As part of their reaction to that expectation, the Chinese government had established a second reserve to stockpile petroleum and was planning to purchase another \$80 billion of gold (about 85 million ounces at current prices).

Such a revelation is not news to regular readers of this newsletter. As I have explained in the past, changes in Chinese policy are signaled by lower level officials. And, when the Chinese state they are thinking about doing something in the future, it almost certainly means they have already been doing it. Further, the Chinese never reveal the full extent of their plan. If they say they want to spend \$80 billion to buy gold, it is quite likely that the amount could be far higher. By understating their intended purchase, they minimize the upward pressure on prices.

To put this 85 million ounces in context, consider that annual worldwide gold mine production is only about 60 million ounces. Or that the possible IMF gold sale is less than 13 million ounces. If the Chinese want to purchase this much gold, where is it going to come from?

Goldman Sachs ordered to suppress gold price. Efforts to suppress gold and silver prices are not publicly announced. In general, such actions are conducted as secretly as possible. If the public were aware of what was happening, the suppression scheme would be less effective at best or might completely fail.

Because commodity trading is relatively opaque, gaining inside knowledge gives traders a significant advantage. By indirect means, a 35-year trader on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, which is affiliated with the COMEX, told Bill Murphy, the chair of the Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee that Goldman Sachs was ordered to take down the price of gold on the afternoon of Thursday, June 11. If you look at the daily US closing prices on page 6, you will see that gold closed over \$960 on June 11. In the ACCESS aftermarket, the price of gold declined by \$6 without any fresh news to account for the drop. The following day, gold fell all the way to close at \$940. The following Monday it dropped to a close of \$927.

At that bargain level, buyers appeared.

Still, selling pressure continued with the result that gold closed on June 22 all the way down to \$920.50.

Note that the price of gold did not decline because of fundamental supply and demand factors, but only because Goldman Sachs was ordered to make it happen, by whatever means necessary to accomplish that.

One month gold and silver lease rates were negative for most of the month of June. Someone who holds physical gold or silver would never consider leasing it at a negative rate, because they are taking a risk of complete loss of their capital and would get back less metal than they started with if the lessee properly completes the lease. Yet, for most of the month of June, both gold and silver one-month lease rates were negative! The only practical way that someone would be willing to extend such a lease is if there is a subsidy coming from elsewhere to cover the loss absorbed on such leases. Obviously, "someone" was so desperate to get physical gold and silver on the market that they were willing to engage in such a blatant market manipulation.

What about the \$134 billion in US government bearer bonds? In early June, two men with Japanese passports were stopped at the Italian border on a trip to Switzerland. In the false bottom in one of their briefcases was found \$134 billion of supposed US government bearer bonds. Most bonds had a face value of \$500 million and a few were \$1 billion. Apparently, the bonds looked legitimate except for the fact that they were dated 1934, before the US government issued bonds of that large a denomination.

There are many conspiracy theories as to who was behind this activity, including the Italian mafia, Venezuelan government (which has denied it), and the Japanese government. The theory involving the Japanese government was that it was trying to unload some of its US debt holdings on the sly. This theory appears doubtful since the bonds were counterfeit.

One analyst theorizes that the whole episode was a set up designed to ensure that the men were stopped and the obvious counterfeits discovered.

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The purpose could be to advertise that some agency has the ability to create counterfeit US government bearer bonds of good enough quality to pass for real, thereby undermining the market for all US government debt (and hurting the value of the US dollar in the process).

This story received almost no news coverage in the US, despite its significance.

Outside auditors of Royal Canadian Mint cannot identify nature of missing precious metals.

As I reported last month, The Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) cannot account for a difference of \$15.3 million in precious metals between what they thought they had and what they actually had at the end of 2008. After failing to resolve the issue internally, it called in outside auditors. Deloitte and Touche was unable to figure out the difference and pointed out three possible causes: 1) theft, 2) prior year errors that were never caught, or 3) a possibility that there are differences in the amount recovered in the refining process.

The RCM has a certificate program for precious metals that are stored there. Despite assurances that no investor has lost any metal, at least one company that markets their certificate program has suspended such sales until "improvements" can be made in the program.

Several hard money advocates have urged investors in such certificate programs, for their own protection, to take delivery. I have long advocated that precious metals not be stored with the vendor who sold it, so my advice still holds.

IMF official discusses replacing US dollar as world reserve currency.

At the St Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia during the first weekend in June, IMF First Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky dropped a bombshell. He said that it would be possible to take the "revolutionary" step of creating a

new global reserve currency to replace the dollar over time. The IMF's Special Drawing Rights could be adapted for this purpose.

By the way, the US was specifically excluded from this meeting.

China expands trade agreements avoiding the use of US dollars. In the past year, China has concluded several trade agreements such as with Russia and Argentina to conduct commerce denominated in the currencies of the particular trading nations. With each new treaty, the dollar is losing more international usage for commerce.

Chair of world's second largest bank advocates that World Bank and US government issue bonds denominated in Chinese yuan. In early June, Guo Suqing of the China Construction Bank, which has the second highest market value of all the world's banks, said that it was in America's interest to see that the Chinese currency expand its international usage.

US government changes rules on reporting Treasury debt sales to make it appear foreign demand is stronger than it really is. Either without telling anyone or burying the disclosure in such an obscure location that no one knows where to find it, the US Treasury now reclassifies some of the indirect bids on its auctions of new debt so that they appear to be coming from foreign sources. It is even possible that some purchases made by the Federal Reserve may be getting reported this way. This is a pretty obvious step to deceive everyone following the Treasury debt market as to the extent of foreign demand, which has been declining, and the amount purchased by the Fed, which has been soaring.

Reported increase in personal income in May turns out to be due to higher government welfare payments. Government statisticians gloated over the reported 1.4% increase in personal income in May. However, if you dig beneath the headline, you will find that news really isn't true. Income from salaries and wages actually declined. What caused the increase for the month was soaring government welfare benefits, many of them one-shot payments. Such payments can only be covered by increasing the money supply, raising taxes, or going further into debt.

Several US state governments are on the verge of bankruptcy. Along with mortgage foreclosures and rising private bankruptcies, state governments have seen their tax collections plummet. California,

New York, Mississippi, Arizona, Colorado, and other states may be forced into bankruptcy within the next month. Already many government programs are being cut that have surprised the citizenry.

I apologize that I don't have more room to discuss many more issues, but I think you get some idea of what is taking place. The US government is trying to hide or obscure the effects of its incredible growth in government debt and the money supply. Despite such efforts, only some of the people are being fooled.

Those with a better understanding of what is happening realize that the US dollar is due to lose much of its value in the not too distant future. Paper assets such as stocks and bonds that are denominated in US dollars will also likely lose value, even if their price in US dollars goes up!

Savvy people are beefing up their holdings of assets such as physical gold and silver, which have the advantage of not being someone else's liability. Since silver is a much smaller market, it is traditionally much more volatile than gold. I personally have a higher allocation of my net worth in silver but I also have a significant position in gold.

As you can see by the price shifts in the past month, it is almost impossible to "time" the gold and silver markets. My best advice is to not even try. If you don't already have at least 10% of your net worth held in physical gold and silver, call us today for assistance.

What Now For The Rare Coin Market?

The slow down in the overall economy has also affected parts of the numismatic market. We are definitely seeing less demand from long-term collectors seeking to add to their holdings. We are not yet seeing unusually large liquidations.

There remains a lot of interest in the prized rarities of numismatics, coins priced above \$10,000, but prices seem to be down 10-30% from 1-2 years ago. As long as the economy is so uncertain, I don't ex-

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pect prices to recover. There is some chance they may drop further.

There are several key-date coins in grades popular with collectors that have soared over the past 10-20 years. Some have risen so high, like the 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter, that we put them on our recommended sell list long ago.

The prices of many other key-date coins are treading water, which leads me to believe that they may soon start to decline.

For those interested in acquiring rare coins with the best appreciation prospects, look at the coins with the highest Undervaluation Index™ in my analyses of several US coins series. In many instances, these analyses have identified coins that are significantly scarcer than the most common issues, yet can be purchased for prices surprisingly close to those of the common-dates. In almost every instance, the coins with the highest Undervaluation Index™ have a history of having sold at far higher prices at sometime in the past.

Still, for most people interested in hard assets, which includes precious metals and rare coins, I don't think it makes sense for them to consider the purchase of rare coins now. Compared to gold and silver bullion-priced items, owning rare coins as an investment involves greater risk of loss, a larger percentage spread between buy and sell prices, and a longer time commitment. It is also trickier to buy the right items at the right prices compared to just purchasing bullion-priced items.

Years ago, we did a study of people selling their coin collections and how they fared. Of the people who strictly bought rare coins as an investment that they thought would make money, over 90% lost money! Of those who had purchased rare coins because they wanted to be a collector, those who collected for at least five years made money over 90% of the time when they sold!

The basic reason to own rare coins is for the pleasure of being able to hold something that is beautiful, historic, and rare. A collector develops judgment over time to help identify items that represent good long-term value, rather than strictly relying on a high pressure salesman whose commission depends on pushing the highest profit margin merchandise.

The most significant possible exceptions to my general line of thinking would be several of what are described at Blue Chip or Generic Coins. These are coins such as common-date US Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars and several types of Classic US Gold Coins. Generally, these are coins available in large enough quantities that they can be promoted by the largest telemarketers.

When significant numbers of people are concerned enough about the falling value of the US dollar, stocks, and bonds, they look for alternative places to invest. Gold and silver bullion are popular and usually sensible options.

To take advantage of this surge in interest in precious metals, expect to see national telemarketers ramping up campaigns to sell these higher profit-margin Blue Chip Coins to unsophisticated buyers. Invariably, the sales spiels will tout the benefits of owing gold or silver bullion, then go on to offer numismatic coins as the way to own precious metals.

It is also quite possible that some companies will continue to lie about the prospects of "gold confiscation" as a reason to buy numismatic coins, which yields higher profits to the seller. For a greater discussion of why I suggest avoiding dealing with any company that tries to sell merchandise using the "gold confiscation" specter, please see "Beware The Gold Confiscation Scams" in the January 2008 issue of *Liberty's Outlook* (available online at www.libertycoinservice.com or call us for a printed copy).

When these marketing campaigns begin in earnest, which I anticipate once gold surpasses \$1,000, I would expect that the prices of all grades of common-date circulated and mint state Morgan and Peace Dollars (single coins and rolls) and US Classic Gold Coins will rise. From past experience, these telemarketers are likely to sell so many coins that it drives up prices far more than from the simple rise in gold and silver prices, at least for a while.

The way to take advantage of what I ex-

pect to be a spike in the price of Blue Chip Coins within the next six months to two years is to consider buying them before the promotions start.

For those who elect to purchase rare coins, which I consider to be a small percentage of hard asset buyers, I still recommend holding more of your hard assets in bullion-priced physical gold and silver. If you want to discuss ideas, you are welcome to call on us or stop by our store.

How's The Paper Money Collector Market Doing?

This past weekend, I again attended the International Paper Money Show in Memphis, the largest annual show focused on this part of the numismatic market. LCS Numismatist David Sweet attended this show for the first time.

There are parts of the collector market that are softer now than they were in recent years. National Currency, common Small Size Type Notes, and other common notes available in large quantities for mass promotions are in a lull right now. If a discovery hoard of almost any kind of note comes on the market right now, it will likely trade at lower prices than it would 1-3 years ago.

Demand for ultimately rare notes remains strong, though prices are significantly below levels seen in recent years.

There are several areas that, on average, are steady at today's levels. This includes Large Size Type Notes and scarcer National Currency.

Areas that still look to be on fire include Colonial and Continental Paper Money. World bank notes are also quite strong, but I think much of that has to do with the declining value of the US dollar.

Attendance at this show was down significantly from the prior year. Multiple dealers told me that their sales at the start of the show were well below normal, but that sales later on had improved.

In such a market, there are some

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items to consider selling, but there are also opportunities to acquire some scarce treasures at bargain prices. One wholesaler, who normally bought bulk materials from other dealers to supply mass marketers told me that such activity had just about come to an end. I took advantage of his slowdown to pick up a couple lots of interesting notes at prices I never expected to see this low again. These will be featured in next month's newsletter.

How Do You Know It's Manipulation (Part 2)?

Last month I discussed how the prices of precious metals had been subject to multiple instances where large quantities were liquidated in a very short time, causing prices to fall significantly. This selling tactic is the opposite of what would be pursued by a seller trying to maximize the proceeds from selling commodities, hence it is a sign of sales made for the purpose of pushing down prices.

Last week, an analyst published concrete data to support this thesis. He examined global trading in the gold market for the month of April 2009.

For the 21 trading days in the month, he looked for every instance where the price of gold either rose or declined by at least 1% in approximately 20 minutes or less. His results were eye-opening.

In that month, the price of gold rose by 1% in 20 minutes or less only five times. In every instance, the rise stopped at almost exactly 1%! To this analyst, that was a clear sign that "someone" had set up an automatic sell signal that was triggered when the price of gold enjoyed a relatively fast increase.

On the declining side, there were 23 instances where the price of gold fell by 1% or more in 20 minutes or less. The amount of the declines were not consistent, ranging from 1% to almost 3%. This variety demonstrates the lack of "someone" setting up an automatic buy signal that would be triggered

when the price of gold falls quickly.

The analyst concluded that the numerous instances of quick price declines, far in excess of quick price increases, do not reflect normal trading patterns in a free market. Instead, they signify a deliberate effort to suppress the price of gold.

There are other trading patterns that seem to be too consistent to be mere coincidence. Here are some examples.

1. Precious metals are a potential alternative for investors, especially those afraid of the falling value of their paper investments. For the past several years, almost every time the US stock markets declined, gold and silver prices also took a hit.

2. If particularly bad economic data is being released, look for gold and silver prices to be clobbered at almost exactly the same time. This has happened with 46 of the last 48 US unemployment reports, just to give one example.

3. On the dates that the COMEX and Over-The-Counter options expire, there are regular efforts to have the maximum number of call contracts expire out of the money.

A call contract is an option to purchase a physical commodity at the contract price before the expiration of the contract. If the commodity's price closes above the contract price on the expiration date, the owner will exercise the option to take immediate physical delivery, adding to demand.

As an example, when options expired last week, the largest groups of silver call options were at \$13.75 and \$14.00. To avoid adding to a supply squeeze, it was necessary that the silver spot price be kept under \$14.00 and possibly below \$13.75.

4. The COMEX gold market closes at 1:30 PM Eastern time zone and silver at 1:25 PM, long before other markets close in the US. Bad financial reports that may lead to higher precious metals prices are often withheld until after the COMEX is closed, giving manipulators time to magnify their efforts in the thinly traded ACCESS markets that open up at 2:00 PM.

(A word of caution to our customers who hear of significant price changes in the ACCESS markets—precious metals wholesalers are aware that many of these price swings are not reflective of the entire market. For instance, if you hear that the price of gold has moved \$5.00 in the ACCESS market, you may not find that the price of physical metals has changed by a matching amount.)

5. A disproportionately large number of sell orders are entered at the opening of the London (3 AM Eastern) and COMEX markets (gold at 8:20 AM Eastern and silver at 8:25 AM). By piling on a large number of orders right at the start, the hope is that buyers will be intimidated from buying until the price stops falling.

6. The last days of the calendar month and calendar year are prone to seeing lower prices as these statistics are used by technical chart traders trying to time the markets. By having prices lower on these dates, technical traders are less likely to buy into a market.

7. When three day weekends come up in any significant markets such as the US, United Kingdom, Japan, and India, a lot of traders are off on the last trading day. As a result, trading is thinner and can be manipulated more easily. Later this week, with the US Independence Day on Saturday, we may well see the lowest gold and silver prices for the month of July.

8. You will more often see price suppression efforts on Mondays and Fridays, the first and last trading days of the week, than you will see on the other days.

9. When prices are close to breaking above or below long-term averages such as the 50-day or 200-day, you will see extra efforts to knock price levels just below the averages.

10. There are also a series of specific price levels at which rising gold and silver prices are attacked. In the gold market, for instance, to keep gold from topping \$1,000, there are efforts to keep it below, \$930, then \$940, \$960, and \$980. The ultimate fight to keep gold below \$1,000 will be fought at the \$980 level rather than waiting for it to test \$1,000.

11. If efforts to stop a rising price in one metal are not succeeding, then look for the alternate metal to be clobbered. If gold buyers keep supporting that price, then silver may be driven down to signal that gold should not be rising.

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12. If it is not possible to cap price rises for both metals, then the prices of gold and silver mining companies could be driven down.

13. As an extreme measure, because it is so blatant, holders of gold or silver may be subsidized to lease their metal, even if the lease is at a negative rate (i.e. the lessor gets back less metal than originally loaned).

14. Then there is the old standby of threatening to flood the market with central bank gold. The Bank of England gold sale, the long-proposed IMF gold sale, and the effect of the Central Bank Gold Agreement were supposed to scare investors that large supplies of gold could enter the market at any time, thereby driving down future prices. This tactic has largely backfired because, once the gold is sold, it cannot be sold again!

This list of times and methods of precious metals price suppression is not exhaustive.

It is not my intention to intimidate potential gold and silver buyers by showing details about how and when prices tend to be suppressed. Keep in mind that, even with the use of all these tactics, the price of gold and silver are both up more than 250% since earlier this decade!

If the prospect of going up against such tactics does scare you, then owning significant quantities of physical gold and silver is probably not for you.

On the other side, if you consider how high gold and silver prices would be today in the absence of tremendous price suppression efforts, that gives you a clue as to how high prices could rise in the future.

I doubt there will ever be a time when the government efforts to hold down gold and silver prices will end, but I foresee them becoming much less important in the not too distant future.

Silver and Silver Coins

Silver settled today at \$13.57, down \$1.73 (11.3%) from four weeks ago!

I pretty much expected something like this today. It is the last day of the month and the calendar quarter. It is

The Month

Gold Range	60.75	6.3%
Net Change	-37.50	
Silver Range	2.31	15.1%
Net Change	-1.73	
Gold/Silver Ratio	68.3	
Net change	+5.3	
Platinum Range	120.00	9.7%
Net Change	-52.00	
Platinum/Gold Ratio	1.28	

Date	Gold	Silver	Platinum
Jun 03	964.50	15.30	1,237.00
Jun 04	981.25	15.88	1,285.00
Jun 05	961.75	15.38	1,282.00
Jun 08	951.75	14.94	1,242.00
Jun 09	954.00	15.13	1,258.00
Jun 10	954.00	15.21	1,273.00
Jun 11	961.25	15.48	1,268.00
Jun 12	940.00	14.87	1,256.00
Jun 15	927.00	14.02	1,214.00
Jun 16	931.50	14.12	1,221.00
Jun 17	935.50	14.27	1,205.00
Jun 18	934.00	14.23	1,207.00
Jun 19	935.50	14.19	1,211.00
Jun 22	920.50	13.69	1,169.00
Jun 23	924.00	13.83	1,165.00
Jun 24	934.00	13.90	1,168.00
Jun 25	939.00	14.00	1,191.00
Jun 26	940.75	14.12	1,211.00
Jun 29	940.50	13.94	1,193.00
Jun 30	927.00	13.57	1,185.00

London Silver Market Premium To New York Silver Market = 4¢

Gold, silver and platinum quotes are working spots at 1:45 EST/EDT each day, quoted in U.S. dollars per troy ounce.

also close to a three day weekend in the US. All three of these factors tend to point to more than usual efforts to hold down precious metals prices.

My expectations that there was a good chance that silver could reach \$20 by the end of June did not occur. I consider my forecast to be premature (which has happened several times) rather than wrong. At its peak so far this year, silver was over \$16.00 in Asian markets early in June. I still expect much higher prices by year end, but don't have a more precise time frame right now.

With lower spot prices of late, there has been a slight increase in premium levels for all forms of bullion-priced physical

silver. **US 90% Silver Coin** (4.7%) now costs more than 15 cents per ounce above silver value than it did at the start of June. **US 40% Silver Coin** (3.4%) is up to a lesser extent as demand was not much affected for this lightly traded form.

Premiums are also up on **100, 10, and 1 Oz Ingots** (5.9-9.2%). Pretty much all bullion-priced silver can still be acquired for immediate or very short term delivery.

Between LCS Chief Numismatist Allan Beegle and me, we succeeded in coming up with four different dates of **Gem Mint State-65 Better Date Morgan Silver Dollars** that are among those that earned our Highest Recommendation for appreciation potential. See our enclosure for details.

Gold And Gold Coins

Gold finished today at \$927.00, down \$37.50 (3.9%) from the beginning of the month.

As with silver, the drop today was not a surprise. Once we get into next week, I think there is a solid chance that the price of gold will regain \$940.

Also like silver, my expectation that gold could reach at least \$1,200 by today did not come to pass. I still expect to see that level and higher by year end, and at least \$2,000 by the end of 2010.

Two weeks ago, the US Mint ended rationing on Gold and Silver Eagles, because they have largely caught up to the backlog that developed ever since last July!

If the Gold Eagle market continues to be satisfied, there is a possibility that the Mint may begin production of 2009-dated fractional size Eagles and of the 1 Oz Buffaloes. Most all gold bullion-priced coins and ingots are readily available at near normal premiums except for the Buffalo.

Several prices are higher for **High Grade US Common-Date Gold Coins** in the past month, even though the price of gold has fallen. Supplies are getting tighter. Our offering of **US Better Date \$2.50 Liberty Quarter Eagles** is opportune. Please see our enclosed offer.