Transportation Deregulation: The Benefits Roll On

With airline deregulation in 1978 and bus deregulation in fits and starts since then, it's a new marketplace in transportation. The well-known lower air fares for travelers aren't the only benefit. Bus fares, too, have come down in the new, competitive environment.

Ticket prices on Greyhound Lines, the nation's largest bus operator, have dropped by two-fifths since airline deregulation, *The Economist* recently reported. And with lower air fares drawing off long-haul passengers, "the average distance of a journey on Greyhound buses has fallen by two thirds." The competition has taken a considerable toll on the bus line: last year, Greyhound lost \$1.4 million on its bus operations (though that loss was greatly offset by profits from other of the company's diversified operations).

But Greyhound's loss doesn't mean that bus service itself has suffered. To the contrary, some 2,000 independent—and profitable—bus lines have sprung up since airline deregulation to serve smaller communities that airlines found it unprofitable to serve in the deregulated climate.

Fortunately, Greyhound is responding to the new competitive pressure not by calling for reregulation but by restructuring its business. The firm is experimenting with franchising its operations to the new, independent carriers, offering them the use of the Greyhound name and facilities in exchange for a fee and a percentage of revenues—a market solution to a new marketplace.

Sales Tax Selling

With Washington debating a score of "flat-rate" income tax proposals that are actually far from flat, Bob Poole suggested in his April editorial ("Flatter Than Flat") that a far better alternative might be replacing the income tax with a sales tax. He is not alone in that view. The case for a na-

tional sales (or value-added) tax has been cropping up lately in noticeable places.

Economist Wassily Leontief, a Nobel laureate, argued in a recent *New York Times* op-ed piece for replacing the personal and corporate income taxes, "riddled with inefficiencies and fraud," with a general sales or value-added tax. Leontief, like Poole, pointed out that this would provide new incentives for savings and investment. And even though he is often considered a Keynesian liberal, Leontief attacked corporate income taxes as "inefficient" and said that they "fall ultimately on people."

In a Wall Street Journal letter to the editor, Michael Bazdarich, vice president of the Claremont Economics Institute in California, reiterated this view. "A truly efficient, non-distorting tax system would be one with no corporate income tax and no personal income tax," he said. Instead, it would feature a "personal consumption tax, which exempts saving from tax and taxes income of any type only when it is consumed."

Similarly, Emory University professor Peter Fong argued on the *New York Times* op-ed page for a 13 percent national sales tax. This would be "the fairest levy," he said, because "it taxes what you take from society (consumption), not what you contribute (earnings)." Unlike the mode of collecting income tax, a sales tax would be "pay as you go, anonymous and dossier-free."

Towering Decision

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently decided to contract out to private operators 130 of its air traffic control (ATC) towers at smaller airports. Fourteen will be contracted out this year, and the remainder will be turned over to private operators at a rate of about 15 per year.

In REASON's May 1983 issue, airline pilot John Doherty detailed how private ATC operators at a dozen airports throughout the country perform as effectively as FAA operators but at dramatically lower costs ("Towering

Don't Be Fooled By Impostors!

prac-ti-cal adj. Having reference to useful ends to be attained; applicable to use.

prag-mat-ic *adj.* Pertaining to the study of events with emphasis on cause and effect: the pragmatic method.

There are some libertarians who call themselves "pragnatists" and would have you believe that calling for "tax cuts," gradual reductions in government regulation and bureaucracy, and giving in to the public's statist prejudices are the "pragnatic" way to move toward liberty and freedom! NOT SO! Look again at the Funk & Wagnalls' Standard College Dictionary definitions—notice the phrases "cause and effect," "having reference to useful ends." Now think of how many years the Libertarian Party has wasted by putting out messages such as the ones given, above. Isn't it time to move forward? Don't you really want to see liberty in your litetime? So why are you wasting your time with approaches that have proven to be worthless? Subscribe today to The Pragnatist and learn the truth about pragnatic ways to get our movement going forward. Don't be fooled by impostors ever again.

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New Money?

Why are some in Washington planning a change in the money? How and when will it come and what will it look like? And perhaps most importantly, what will it mean for you, your pocketbook, and your freedom? Here's how you can find out!



RON PAUL

Ron Paul receives more inquiries on the Treasury's proposal to issue a new paper currency than on any other issue. This is because as a Member of Congress in October, 1983, he was the *FIRST* to reveal publicly the plans of the U.S. Treasury to introduce the new multi-colored currency which will replace the greenbacks now in our pockets. This new money will probably be put into circulation in 1985 or 1986.

Ron has maintained from the start that such a change should not come about without the approval of Congress, yet arrogant bureaucrats have made plans as if what Congress thinks is not relevant. He also believes that the change symbolizes the insidious nature of government control of money. It carries with it broad and possibly ominous implications for our economy and our personal liberties. In fact, a new currency could conceivably be the vehicle by which a zealous bureaucracy attacks the so-called "underground economy," without regard to the impact on your freedom and mine.

In order to answer the many questions about the new money, Ron Paul has recorded an in—depth interview now available on audio cassette tapes as well as in printed report form. To obtain either one, just fill out the order form and return it, along with your check or credit card information to Independence Press.

This question of the new money is just beginning to be reported and few Americans know of it yet. Through this interview, you can hear the full story of what it's all about.

> Interviewed by Professor Lawrence Reed, lecturer, author, Adjunct Professor of Economics with Northwood Institute, and President of Independence Press, Inc.

YES!	I'd like the full story on what's being planned for the NEW MONEY.

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further & more

Entrepreneurs"). Indeed, an FAA spokesman told REASON that the agency expects private operation to save at least 25 percent on traffic control costs at the 130 targeted airports.

And More

- Computing the benefits. Last fall, REASON reported on the growth of, and hostility to, computer home work ("Telecommuting: Will the Plug Be Pulled?" Oct.). Since then, the Wall Street Journal has reported a consulting firm's estimate that the telecommuter population could grow to 7.2 million this year. And in an interview with the newsletter Telecommuting Review, futurist Alvin Toffler-himself a former unionist—called the AFL-CIO opposition to telecommuting "criminally absurd." Soon afterwards, Los Angeles Times columnist Sam Hall Kaplan mentioned in a column that he was writing at home on his personal computer, and he wondered, "Am I violating the local zoning code that specifically prohibits a commercial use in a residential zone?"
- Bonds oversold? Industrial-development bonds have been peddled in the Lone Star State as a panacea for unemployment and economic stagnation, but as Michael Berryhill reported last December ("How the Rich Get Richer in Texas"), they're ordinarily little more than an elaborate subsidy that benefits well-to-do Texans. Evidently, other states are having similar experiences. Oregon official Joseph Cortright recently testified that his state's 10-year-old bond program resulted in less than a third of the new jobs originally promised, while the state lost \$1.4 million because of increased borrowing
- No place like home. Evidently taking a cue from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) ("How to Change the Facade of Public Housing," Trends, Oct.), Fidel Castro's government has enacted a new law that makes renters of government housing into homeowners. Even Marxist-Leninists can evidently appreciate the virtues of private property on occasion. "Now the population, being homeowners, will feel more responsible for maintenance and repairs," government official Eugenio Balari explained to the Los Angeles Times.

June/July 1985

Proof Silver Bargain!

During the past year coin collectors and investors have begun to discover and appreciate silver coins in Choice Proof condition. Franklin Halves in Proof condition have moved up 39.2%; the wholesale value of recent proof coins has in-

creased an average of 51.9%.

It is not surprising that silver coins in Choice Proof condition have become so popular: silver is a beautiful metal, and proof coins represent the pinnacle of the mintmaster's art.

7 Reasons to Buy Proof Silver Washington Quarter

- 1—Condition: The most desirable of all Washington Quarters are Proof specimens, coins specially produced for the finest quality. Coin blanks are cleaned and polished to assure the sharpest impression. Dies are inspected to verify that they are perfect, then highly polished and wiped clean periodically during the minting process. The blanks are hand fed into the coinage press individually, and each coin is struck twice at slow speed with extra pressure to insure that utmost quality is achieved. The finished coins are inspected and sealed into special holders.
- **2—Commemorative:** The Washington Quarter was originally intended to be issued as a Commemorative coin to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. It proved so popular that it was made the regular issue quarter. It is the only commemorative coin in U.S. history to be made a regular issue.
- 3—Wintage: Washington Quarters in Choice Proof condition are frequently classified as "common coins," probably because so many were manufactured for circulation. In fact, nearly 4 billion silver Washington Quarters were struck. But less than 1% were struck in proof condition.
- 4—Underpriced: Franklin Halves in Choice Proof condition currently command a price of about \$30. Franklins Halves contain exactly twice as much silver as Washington Quarters. The mintages are comparable. Yet Franklin Halves in Choice Proof condition sell for approximately 5 times the price as Washignton Quarters in the same condition. (See the chart below.)



- **5—Overlooked by Collectors:** Mesmerized by the huge mintage-figures of circulation strike Washington Quarters, many collectors have assumed that it will always be available in Choice Proof condition. Just as collectors learned over the past year that the Franklin Half was scarcer than anyone imagined, collectors today are discovering the rarity and beauty of the Washington Quarter in Choice Proof condition.
- **6—Weltage:** During 1979 and 1980, a huge quantity of U.S. silver coins were melted. Many observers believe that large quantities of Proof silver coins were melted, further reducing the available supply of Washington Quarters in Choice Proof condition.
- **7—Low Price:** The Washington Quarter in Choice Proof condition is currently available at less than \$5 per coin, an inexpensive coin by any measure. It is within the means of even the most modest collector—insuring its strong future demand.

				SII VER	
COIN	DATE	CONDITION	MINTAGE	SILVER CONTENT	PRICE
Washington Quarter	1961	Proof	3,028,244	.18084	\$ 4.40
Franklin Half	1961	Proof	3,028,244	.36169	27.50
Washington Quarter	1962	Proof	3,218,019	.18084	4.40
Franklin Half	1962	Proof	3,218,019	.36169	27.50
Washington Quarter	1963	Proof	3,075,645	.18084	4.40
Franklin Half	19.63	Proof	3,075,645	.36169	27.50

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- **2—Price: LCS** price in 100 coin lots is \$4.40 per coin. The lowest price we find advertised elsewhere is \$4.75—that's 8% above LCS price
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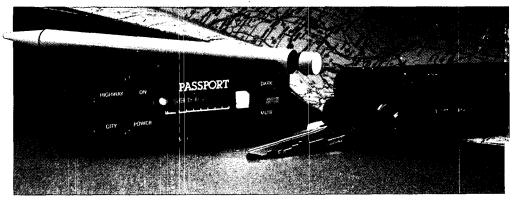
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Car and Driver March, 1985

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