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## Better-Management Newsletter 30 May 2015

**The economy - dodgy / Beware the elimination of cash / Common sense in a crazy world / Voluntary Euthanasia - and disgraceful politicians**

### The economy - dodgy

This week the US government changed its Q1 GDP statistics to show the country's economy shrank by 0.7%. Not really surprising as they stopped printing money to goose the stats... but then they will not admit that...Duh?

Chinese shares look a bit shaky...from seeking Alpha...

“**The Shanghai Composite has ended** a seven-day winning streak with a bang, **wiping out 6.5%** to record its second-worst session of 2015, while the tech-heavy Shenzhen Composite **lost 5.5%** - its third biggest fall in five years. Until Thursday China's benchmark index had surged more than 50% this year, despite widespread concerns that the market was in bubble territory. The plunge also highlighted the warnings Credit Suisse gave clients earlier this week: "At some point, there will be a massive correction of these stocks, in our view. Avoid this space!!!"

Greece only has a week to fix its liquidity shortfall...from Seeking Alpha...

“**Hopes for a deal between Greece** and its international creditors were quickly raised and dashed Wednesday when Greece's optimism for an agreement was extinguished by European officials - who denied a deal was near. Not only did European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis say the two sides still had some way to go before any agreement could be concluded, but German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble also poured cold water on any hopes, saying he was surprised by Athens' upbeat tone.”

The US Treasury Secretary has on Friday warned Europe of the danger of Greece defaulting by accident. This is obviously because the derivatives overhang is too dangerous to leave to chance. It could destroy the global financial system. But IMHO the Secretary should look at bubbles closer to home as being more dangerous.

The ECB still wonders how it will unwind its own QE programme...from Seeking Alpha...

“**The ECB will have to be "very careful"** when it unwinds its trillion-euro bond-buying program, a leading member of the central bank's governing council has warned. "We watch with great interest the American experience," ECB board member Ewald Nowotny noted, saying he believes "the Fed is doing quite a good job in being very cautious with its policy of tapering." Since the ECB's QE program began in March, unexpectedly good economic data from the euro zone has led to some speculation that it might end earlier than its planned September 2016 deadline.”

## **Beware the elimination of cash**

This article from Bill Bonner echoes my own suspicions...

<http://thecrux.com/bill-bonner-this-is-what-a-cashless-society-will-look-like/>

So what do Australians think about China?

[http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2015/5/28/china/what-australians-really-think-about-rising-china?utm\\_source=exact&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=1382362&utm\\_campaign=kgb&modapt=](http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2015/5/28/china/what-australians-really-think-about-rising-china?utm_source=exact&utm_medium=email&utm_content=1382362&utm_campaign=kgb&modapt=)

## **Common sense in a crazy world**

One day we may get to 100% clean energy but not any time soon.

Oil companies need to spend all their money on getting oil out of the ground. If and when they don't and can't then our chances of harnessing enough renewable energy to meet everyday needs will become impossible. There needs to be a transition – something some religious leaders are dead set against. Humanity cannot regulate itself by notions of “god's laws” when our fates are so threatened by a reality we have brought upon ourselves...

<http://world.einnews.com/article/267818180/mRvAnpN422-EMzy>

By all means, change when change is possible.

Oil companies will die soon enough as they find eventually they cannot produce oil for the price the market will pay. This is why the oil majors have cut back on their capital investment in favour of taking over small companies that have proven long-life reserves and it is why Exxon is buying back its own shares.

But a church setting out to impose its beliefs on reality shows there has been little change to their thinking since Galileo. If we decide to stop producing oil and the world economy will shrivel and die. First it will certainly collapse the global financial system. Then the poverty and warfare would lead to dieback of our species.

But then, perhaps some folk don't believe in the second law of thermodynamics .....or have been listening to Jack Ma who has just proven, if his remarks have been translated correctly, that silly people can still become in-sanely wealthy...

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20150528000121&cid=1204>

Of course we may find some help in harnessing the power of anti-matter...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_y009Tblzg#t=107](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_y009Tblzg#t=107)

We are in a time of deceit and deception in government propaganda that sends out the wrong pricing signals...

<http://peakoil.com/consumption/is-the-oil-glut-real>

## **Voluntary Euthanasia - and disgraceful politicians**

Unfortunately anyone who has not seen relatives die in the most undignified and distressing circumstances may not be qualified to comment – despite one’s firmly held religious beliefs. My score is three very painful, demeaning and distressing deaths. If you disagree, please feel free to not read any further after this point. In the most distressing case the doctor said to me on two occasions that we would not treat a dog like we treated his then patient. The doctor was correct. No animal is ever left to die in distress. In the case in point, the patient endured two full months of drowning and skin-splitting as he repeatedly filled with fluid yet his pacemaker kept jump-starting his heart. His death is heavy on my conscience despite his bravery.

Medical science means we eliminate many easy deaths – like pneumonia (aka the old man’s friend) - so a greater proportion of us die nasty deaths that are extremely demeaning, distressing and de-humanising to each patient.

There are well worked out procedures for voluntary euthanasia laws in Holland, Switzerland and elsewhere.

I have a further four family members who would not have qualified because it is hard to identify a time when they could or would have exercised their free will. My father was deaf and did not understand what was happening and then there are those with senile dementia. But that is the way things pan out.

The person who got this article below published is certainly not qualified to air an opinion...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/assisted-dying/11639072/Arranging-an-assisted-suicide-is-the-ultimate-in-control-freakery.html>

Despite palliative care, all seven family members suffered pain and distress that medical science cannot avoid. As things are at present, senior medical staff do provide life ending injections when THEY deem the patient is near an end but in tremendous distress. Then they get family members to agree with the pain killer that “does the job”, before administering it. This happens often and everywhere, yet we are never allowed to talk about it. It is taboo as if no-one is allowed to know it happens. Yet it is a huge kindness to frantic relatives as well as the dying.

So the law needs to be changed and made more certain as to what can and cannot be done. I will continue to advocate that.

Make up your own mind, but the law must be changed. It must be the right of the patient to determine how much they will tolerate – subject to clear procedural controls.

Anything other than that is barbaric. I will refrain from mentioning in detail, the cost aspect of this for our society. But that is a clear advantage of voluntary euthanasia. *(Editor's note: I support these John's views - 100%)*