

Captain Taxation

On April 21, 1946 John Maynard Keynes, the greatest economist of his era suffered a heart attack and passed away. But his soul was too strong to be pulled into the next life. At this great time of need after the Second World War, the international economy was in chaos and the world needed him now more than ever. Where could this powerful economic spirit dwell in lieu of a physical body? Keynes soul lived hidden in the minds of new emerging economists. At first he was an intangible presence in the back of their minds, trying to nudge them in the right direction. It was only through his influence that John Hicks was able to develop his general economic equilibrium theory or James Meade was able to make breakthroughs in economic trade models.

In time, his powers became greater. He was able to speak directly to his host economist. Learning this ability was a process of trial and error, as he found out while showing John Forbes Nash how to derive non-zero sum game equilibria. Once he made this crucial step, he found he could even control the minds of the world's greatest economists. Tempted by this great power on the fateful day of November 27, 2006 he jumped into the mind of the United States Secretary of the Treasury Henry Merritt Paulson Jr. He coerced Paulson into devoting funds into a new project, codenamed Midas. This multi-billion dollar project was to develop a robotic body for Keynes soul to inhabit, one capable of turning any material into gold. Leading physicists from around the world were secretly gathered for project Midas. Once the project was completed, any economic recession could be reversed by increasing government spending through the Midas machine according to Keynesian economic theory.

Everything was going according to plan and the project was about to be unveiled. All that was left was for Keynes to leave the mind of Paulson and enter into his permanent host

body. At this critical moment, everything went wrong. Will Bryan, an under spoken force of opposition from the beginning of the project took his fateful stand. "You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold!" With this, he lunged towards Midas and pulled the plug on its central processing unit. But Keynes has already made the leap into the robot. In this confusion, Keynes spirit was expelled from Midas and the robot took on a life of its own. The scientists rushed to try to subdue the robot, but were instantly turned to gold. Desperately, Paulson pressed the emergency door lock, sealing Midas in behind thick steel doors. Alas, it was in vain. Midas simply turned the doors into gold and easily forced his way through the soft metal.

Now alone in the bunker, Keynes and Paulson had to decided upon a new course of action.

"With Midas on the loose, everything will turn into gold a ruin our economic standards. Inflation will run rampant!"

"I know, Paulson, I wrote the book on inflation."

"Well at least we know everything will work on in the long run, it always does with economics."

"In the long run, we're all dead."

With hardened resolve, they set about creating a new robot, one where Keynes would be able to combat the inflation created by Midas. News reports of rampant inflation were coming in, and the economic panic was leading to riots and chaos. Desperately, they modified a Midas prototype with a failed gold transmutation drive. Soon they had a working model for Keynes to inhabit. Keynes entered the robot and became Captain Taxation!

"It's simple, Paulson. To end the recession we need to increase taxes and reduce government spending. Using this theory, the private money supply will dwindle bringing prices back to stable rates." Captain taxation rushed to Capital Hill, seeing a river of gold which

marked the path of King Midas. Citizens were rioting in the streets, looting this now plentiful resource. Once he reached Capital Hill, he put his years of mental training to the test and used his mind control to coerce Congress, already in an emergency session, to raise taxes dramatically and end all but the most vital government programs. If the government hoarded the money supply, private investment and speculation would slow down. This would effectively counter the inflation and normalize the economy. But first, Midas had to be stopped.

Captain Taxation knew that his robotic body would be no match for the completed Midas. Luckily, he had one thing Midas did not: intelligence bred from the experience of a century in the brightest minds of modern times. Captain Taxation quickly determined how to stop him. If Midas turned anything he touched into gold, he could be captured in a cell of his own making. Captain Taxation alerted the local fire department, who rushed to the scene and doused Midas with the fire hoses. The water turned to gold immediately upon contact, encrusting him with gold. Midas was then secretly transported and sealed into an underground lake, where any attempt to escape would just make his cell stronger.

The extreme taxes were kept in place until the money supply returned to normal, and even the national debt was erased with the surplus government taxes. Captain Taxation had saved the day from the destructive effects of out of control inflation. Everyone could rest soundly knowing that we were safe from future inflation, or even the return of Midas himself, due to the theories of government intervention pioneered by John Maynard Keynes, Captain Taxation!

Resources

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