

Dear Dr Ord,

I saw you on the BBC news programme on Saturday, November 14 last year; whilst I do not for one moment question your sincerity, I certainly question the wisdom of your donating half your salary to charity for the rest of your life, and hope to persuade you to adopt a different approach, one that will benefit many more people than this grand but futile gesture without injuring your own finances in the slightest.

I realise of course where you are coming from, leading by example you hope to set a trend. Unfortunately, you do not appear to have researched this subject from the most important angle – the financial one – because if you had, you would realise that even if a million or a hundred million people followed in your footsteps, it would do not the slightest bit of good, and would probably do a great deal of harm.

Your “solution” to world poverty, that you – and by implication everyone on or about your salary and above – should donate half their salaries to charity is akin to treating a broken leg with morphine. This procedure will, it is true, provide near instant pain relief, but a doctor who pumped such a patient full of painkillers and then sent him on his way would succeed only in increasing his eventual discomfort, and perhaps even crippling him. That is what your solution would do to both the economy, and to the world.

If you want to cure world poverty, you must first identify the problem. The main problem with the world economy is the financial system, and the enormous burden of debt which has been imposed on national governments, corporations and individuals alike.

This debt runs into many trillions of dollars, and is irredeemable. There is in fact more debt in existence than actual money, an absurd situation for the world to be in. You might ask how can this be? This has come about because the banking system worldwide has been given a free hand to create money as an interest bearing debt. Debt is piled upon debt upon debt, and no one in any government anywhere suggests even that this debt be cancelled, as it should be.

What use will a few academics, a few hundred or even a few million donating half their salaries to charity do? Charities invest money with financial institutions, and are paid interest in turn. The debt must be cancelled.

Have you ever wondered where money comes from? I know I said it comes from the banks, but this is only half the story. At the outbreak of the First World War, Britain was insolvent. Then, suddenly, it found the wherewithal to send hundreds of thousands of men to the Continent to fight, maim and kill other men, and to be maimed and killed in return.

Ten years or so after the end of the now mis-named Great War, there was a world depression. Then, suddenly because it was *necessary* to fight another world war, Britain and its allies, and the other side, re-armed just like that. Then the madness started all over again, and this time it went on for six years.

At this very moment, the United States, Britain and other *democracies* are maintaining vast armies in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet there are people living in tent cities in California.

It may give you a warm feeling inside to donate half your salary to a medical or some other charity, but it would be more useful by far if you were to address the real problem. How can governments always find money for war at the drop of a hat whatever their financial positions?

You will find at the bottom of this e-mail some links which will point you in the right direction. It has often been said that one person can make a difference, or even change the world. I know from personal experience that it can, because the law of defamation in this country was changed primarily because of me! That though is a tiny, insignificant thing. If a hundred or a thousand academics of your caliber could be diverted from interesting but ultimately pointless theoretical ethical exercises into reforming the corrupt, debt-based money system, they could really change the world.

Yours Sincerely,
A Baron

http://www.youtube.com/sydbaron#p/u/22/g5nYE_186Dk

http://www.financialreform.info/f_r_absurdity_debt_1.html

http://www.financialreform.info/f_r_money_trick.html

<http://www.archive.org/details/RepresentativeAlanGraysonInvestigatesTheFederalReserve>