



“2006 Wrap-Up: We’re Right on Track!”

“Our *Gold & Energy Advisor* approach has never looked more appropriate. Recent events continue to confirm our bullish outlook on gold and energy!”

James DiGeorgia, Editor

- **Housing market: It’s still plunging!**
- **Saudi Arabia’s King warns: Middle East is “powder keg, ready to explode”**
- **Dollar plummets 9.2 percent—gold is looking great!**

As we come to the end of the year, how is our investment approach doing?

I won’t have final portfolio numbers until next month, but our overall approach has been right on the money.

We continue to be ahead of major trends in our economy—trends that will have an enormous impact on your investments in the coming years.

In this issue, let’s see how these trends developed in 2006, and where they’re headed—not only for 2007, but also beyond. We’ll start with...

The Housing Market: Still Falling

I was warning about our real estate bubble back when the mania was still in full swing. Of course, you’d have been hard-pressed to find a media commentator that agreed with me. They all insisted on sunny optimism, even as the market started to turn around. They’ve led countless investors to ruin.

Now the housing slump is undeniable. Sales of single-family homes in October fell by a scary amount: 25.4 percent from a year earlier. No wonder prices are falling like stones.

As I’ve been warning, falling real estate prices will ripple through our economy. The Commerce Department has reported that residential fixed investment—the part of the Gross Domestic Product that reflects spending on housing—plunged by 18 percent during the quarter. This in turn slashed 1.16 percent off the entire GDP’s overall growth.

In addition, the fallout on financial markets is only beginning. Mortgage delinquencies have surged, to a level almost twice that of a year earlier. (And

this doesn't even include loans where the borrower defaults within the first few months, and the lender is forced to repurchase the loan. These repurchases are also up this year.)

The tsunami of defaults is hitting the subprime market especially hard. Subprime mortgages (where the buyer has credit or income problems) are a huge market all by themselves, with \$625 billion in new loans issued just last year. They're often repackaged into mortgage-backed securities, and resold.

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A certain expected rate of default is built into these packages, but defaults are now surging far beyond expectations.

If this doesn't turn around fast (and there's no reason to expect a turnaround), these securities will nosedive. We'll see their owners—typically large institutional investors, like hedge funds—take major hits.

If the investors are leveraged, they'll be forced to sell other holdings to cover their losses, and the carnage will spread through the broader markets.

Unfortunately, real estate bubbles take years to deflate. As borrowers default, foreclosure sales occur, which depresses the market even further and causes more foreclosures.

Meanwhile, the wave of defaults causes lenders to tighten lending standards, making loans even more expensive and hard to get, which also depresses buying activity and drives prices down further.

This vicious circle takes years to work itself out. So we'll see the damage get a lot worse before it gets better.

Falling prices and rising rates also mean that home-equity loans are drying up, which means less consumer spending, which kicks out one of the few remaining props for our economy.

Of course, what's bad for the economy is great for gold. The gold bull isn't over yet—it has years left to run.

Our Oil Problems: Getting Worse Instead of Better

Throughout 2006, I've been pounding the table here in *GEA* about the shortage of cheap oil. The media pooh-poohs this idea, but the past 12 months haven't seen the problem go away. Instead, just the opposite is true.

Iraq, with the third-largest oil reserves in the world, is spiraling downward into civil war.

Russia, the second-largest oil producer in the world, seems to grow more malevolent every month (more on this later).

Venezuela, with the sixth-largest oil reserves in the world, just re-elected nutcase dictator Hugo Chávez, whose socialist incompetence is strangling the country's oil output.

Then there's the crisis in the Middle East...

Saudi king warns: Middle East is “keg of gunpowder, ready to explode”

At a summit of Middle Eastern leaders, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia warned, “Our Arab region is surrounded by dangers...It is like a keg of gunpowder, waiting for a spark to explode.”

Lebanon is ready to fall to the murderous Hezbollah radicals. The mullahs in Iran are about to go nuclear, and are openly threatening to attack Israel. There’s growing violence and radicalization among the various Palestinian factions in Gaza. And worst of all, obviously, is the bloody chaos in Iraq.

The overall situation is worse than most Americans realize. The American media focuses on the violence in Iraq itself, which is bad enough. But the Iraqi conflict is spreading into a broader war involving the major oil powers in the world.

Iraq is made up of three people groups; Kurds, Shia Muslims, and Sunni Muslims. As I explained in my book *Global War for Oil*, the entire country is a political fiction, imposed on the region by the British after World War I. These three groups hate each other, and trying to make them into a cohesive whole was both stupid and disastrous.

Many Americans think we should just evacuate the region and let the fanatics kill each other. But that’s not a viable solution anymore. Iraq’s biggest neighbors are involved now.

Iran and Syria have been interfering on the Shia side for quite some time. Money, weapons, and other support has been flowing steadily across the borders into Iraq, supplying the Shias with all they need to blow up Sunni mosques and kill Sunni civilians.

Meanwhile, the Sunnis are retaliating with bombs and bullets of their own. However, as the minority group in Iraq, they run the risk of being outgunned by the Shias...

So now Saudi Arabia, Iraq’s Sunni neighbor, is considering getting involved in the war.

The rivalry between the Persians (Iran) and the Arabs (Saudi Arabia) goes back millennia, and the Saudis are not about to stand by while their Sunni

brethren in Iraq are killed by Iranian Shia bombs.

Is this just speculation? No. The recommendation to openly intervene was announced in an article published by Nawaf Obaid, a senior security advisor to the Saudi royal family.

As the Saudis told our Vice President a few days ago, they see Iran trying to establish itself as the dominant power in the region, through its influence in Iraq, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories. For that matter, the Iranians themselves seem to think they’ve already succeeded. Mohsen Rezai, the secretary-general of the powerful Expediency Council and advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamanei, just gloated about this on Iran’s state television.

He said, “The kind of service that the Americans, with all their hatred, have done us—no superpower has ever done anything similar...America destroyed all our enemies in the region. It destroyed the Taliban. It destroyed Saddam Hussein...The Americans got so stuck in the soil of Iraq and Afghanistan that if they manage to drag themselves back to Washington in one piece, they should thank God. America presents us with an opportunity, rather than a threat—not because it intended to, but because it miscalculated.”

So Iran is a rising threat, and the Saudis have to counteract it. What will happen once Saudi Arabia starts interfering in Iraq on the side of the Sunnis? Proxy wars have a tendency to spill out beyond their borders. Could Iran and Saudi Arabia start fighting each other directly? That would also pull in the United States, as the Saudis’ ally, even though our military is already stretched dangerously thin.

Plus, Iran would attack Israel, in an attempt to cause an Israeli retaliation. Such a counterattack would suck the rest of the Arab nations into the war, in sympathy with the “victim” of Israeli aggression.

This whole situation could explode overnight. The price of oil could hit \$200 per barrel. Even if open warfare doesn’t break out—and we certainly hope it doesn’t—a proxy war would probably push oil up to \$100, at least.

And wars abroad aren’t the only threat we’re facing. Unfortunately, there’s another one here at home that we also have to worry about...

Another 9/11 in Minneapolis?

“Allahu Akhbar! Allahu Akhbar!”

These were the last words recorded by the cockpit recorder in United Flight 93 five years ago. The murderers who had taken over the flight shouted these

**Latest prices as GEA goes to press—
December 20, 2006**

Comex spot contract: silver \$12.49, gold \$619
Nymex spot platinum: \$1,116, palladium \$322
Nymex Light Sweet Crude Oil \$63.80

		Dealer will buy at this price	Dealer will sell at this price
Silver coins			
100 1 oz. silver American Eagles		\$1,250	\$1,400
100 1 oz. common rounds		\$1,100	\$1,350
\$1,000 face value US pre-1965 coin bag (circulated)		\$7,850	\$8,865
\$1,000 face value US circulated silver dollar bag (VG or better)		\$11,500	\$14,100
US Morgan silver dollars	PCGS MS64	\$45	\$65
	PCGS MS65	\$110	\$140
	PCGS MS66	\$280	\$375
Platinum coins			
U.S. Platinum Eagle:	1 oz.	\$1,088	\$1,200
	1/2 oz.	\$550	\$610
	1/4 oz.	\$270	\$340
	1/10 oz.	\$105	\$145
Gold coins			
Australian Kangaroo		\$580	\$657
British sovereign (Kings)		\$120	\$170
(Elizabeths)		\$120	\$170
Canadian Maple Leaf		\$580	\$640
Credit Suisse 1 oz. gold bar		\$580	\$640
Mexican 50 peso Centenario		\$680	\$760
South African Krugerrand		\$575	\$630
US Gold Eagle:	1 oz.	\$589	\$651
	1/2 oz.	\$285	\$340
	1/4 oz.	\$140	\$185
	1/10 oz.	\$50	\$72
US \$20 double eagle:			
Liberty	Raw MS60	\$600	\$795
	NGC MS63	\$800	\$1,200
	NGC MS64	\$1,800	\$1,950
	NGC MS65	\$4,150	\$5,950
Saint Gaudens	Raw MS60	\$625	\$775
	NGC MS63	\$725	\$875
	NGC MS64	\$845	\$950
	NGC MS65	\$1,180	\$1,395

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words (meaning “Allah is great”) as they plunged 40 other people to their fiery deaths in a Pennsylvania field.

These were also the words shouted by six bearded imams as they boarded another United flight in Minneapolis, three days before Thanksgiving this year.

You probably heard about this incident in the news. The imams were ejected from the flight, and the flight was then delayed by three hours as a bomb-sniffing dog went over the plane, cockpit to tail rudder.

Now the imams are claiming that they were unjustly discriminated against, just for “praying.” Coming to their defense are the activist groups MAS (Muslim American Society) and CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic Relations, funded by Saudi Arabia). They’ve announced plans to “hit [US Airways] where it hurts, the pocketbook,” by seeking financial compensation, civil and federal monetary sanctions, and broad federal legislation that will clobber any airline that dares to engage in “racial and religious profiling.”

The media has been very sympathetic to the poor imams. One cable news show even compared their plight to civil rights hero Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat despite institutional racism.

This is sickening. Why aren’t these media outlets talking about the *real* reasons the imams were (rightly) thrown off the flight?

When they boarded the plane, the imams refused to take their assigned seats. Instead, they split up and went straight to the first row of first class, the midcabin exit rows, and the far rear of the plane. These are the exact same locations assumed by the 9/11 hijackers.

Then, three of them asked the flight attendants for seat belt extensions—long straps with heavy metal buckles on either end, kept on board for people for whom the normal belts are too small. These extensions make dandy weapons, by the way. And the imams who received the belts didn’t use them. Instead, they carefully rolled them up and stored them beneath their seats.

Then, other passengers began to notice the imams’ behavior. One Arabic-speaking passenger became frightened at what the imams were saying amongst themselves, and translated some of it for the flight crew. It included furious denunciations of America and U.S. foreign policy, angry complaints about “killing Saddam,” and a conversation about Osama bin Laden. Another passenger talked for a bit with one of the imams, a 31-year-old Egyptian who took

a fundamentalist stance on the Koran. He said he would go to whatever measures necessary to obey it.

At this point the flight crew decided enough was enough, and threw them off the plane. Then the outraged posturing began. Today, the whole incident is under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

After all, we wouldn't want anybody's civil right to *act like he's hijacking a plane* to be violated.

What I want to know is...

Why did they do this?

The knuckleheads in the media say the imams were innocently praying, and are being oppressed for their religious views. I think this is utter hogwash.

It seems obvious that the imams knew exactly what they were doing. In fact, they had all just attended a conference of the North American Imams Federation, with sessions on topics like "Imams and the Media." You can't tell me they didn't know they were acting provocatively.

But why did they do this? I can think of two possibilities, and they're both ugly.

Number one is that they were planning to hijack the plane. But I don't think this is true. They would have been a lot more subtle if they were actually hoping to pull this off.

No, it seems to me that this was a deliberate attempt to get "oppressed" by being thrown off the plane. Now they can make a big stink about it, especially with the bleeding hearts in the media jumping onto their bandwagon.

There's now a good chance that the imams will succeed in punishing the airline in one way or another for its "persecution." Federal regulations or even legislation are also possible.

As a result of all this, airlines are going to be a lot more gun-shy about profiling, or controlling, their passengers. But if an airline can get in trouble for ejecting people who were acting like hijackers, how will the airlines be able to prevent *real* hijackers from doing their thing? Answer: they can't.

Seems to me this is part of a larger plan. I'm guessing Osama bin Laden, or one of his murderous flunkies, is planning another multiple hijacking. Actually, we don't need to guess, because Osama has said he wants to do it again. It's reasonable to assume that he's trying.

But in order to be successful, he needs to defeat the increased vigilance among our flight crews. And what better way to do that, then through the morons in the media? Airline or law enforcement officials wouldn't relax their wariness on their own, but public pressure from the media airheads might force them to do it anyway.

Let's hope not.

Russia Commits Nuclear Terrorism

You've probably read about last month's assassination of Alexander Litvinenko.

A former KGB agent, Litvinenko was a prominent critic of Russian president Vladimir Putin. He died a painful, lingering death from radioactivity poisoning, after somebody slipped polonium 210 into his food. Doctors said it was an awful way to die: his internal organs were cooked from the inside out. Note that he was a British subject, and was assassinated in London. That makes this the first known case of using nuclear materials in a terrorist act.

Unfortunately, Litvinenko was only the latest of a long series of Putin's victims. Critics of the Russian president have a nasty habit of dying in horrible ways.

For example, former Chechen president Zelimkhan Yandarbyev was killed, and his 12-year-old son injured, when a bomb (planted by Russian agents) ripped apart his SUV. Yuri Shchekochikhin, a member of the Russian Parliament, died a long, horrible death in 2003: he was poisoned by something that made his skin peel off, and his skull and lungs fill with fluid. (Journalists who tried to investigate his murder were told that all information was a "medical secret." Even family members could not get access.)

Movladi Baisarov, an important figure in the Chechen war, was gunned down in Moscow while police watched. Sergei Yushenkov, co-chairman of the Russian Liberal Party, was shot in 2003, and the Party's other co-chairman was framed for his murder even though police had videotapes that exonerated him. Journalist Anna Politkovskaya was assassinated two months ago in the elevator of her apartment building, after a long series of threats and unsuccessful attempts on her life. She was the third victim from her newspaper, the *Novaya Gazeta*, to be killed. The other two were Shchekochikhin (who was also a reporter for the newspaper), and a third colleague who was bludgeoned to death with a hammer.

There are many other victims as well. And this doesn't even include the unsuccessful assassinations, such as the needle disguised as a pen that almost killed Boris Berezovsky, the Molotov cocktail thrown at Akhmed Zakaev, or the dioxin poisoning that has left Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko horribly disfigured.

Putin is growing increasingly fearless. Not only will he kill his own citizens at will, he's willing to assassinate anybody he perceives as an enemy—even

Portfolio Updates

In Update #283, we took action on some of our hedges/covered calls.

For subscribers who sold calls on Encore Acquisition (EAC), we bought back the December \$25 calls (EACLE). We had sold for \$4.50, and bought them back for \$1.45. We made \$305 per contract and lowered our cost basis in the stock.

For subscribers who sold calls on Anadarko Petroleum (APC), we bought back the December \$45 calls (APCLI). We had sold for \$2.65, and bought them back for \$1.00. We made \$165 per contract and lowered our cost basis in the stock.

In Update #284, we took further action on our hedges/covered calls.

For subscribers who sold calls on Bill Barrett (BBG), we bought back the December \$30 calls (BBGLF). We had sold the option for \$1.40, now we bought it back for \$1.05. We made \$35 per contract and lowered our cost basis in the stock.

For subscribers who sold calls on Noble Energy (NE), we rolled up our December \$70 calls (NELN), to the January \$75 calls (NEAO). This allowed us to maintain our position and increase our equity in the stock by \$1.25.

For subscribers who sold the December \$45 calls (ATWLI) on Atwood Oceanics (ATW), we allowed the stock to get called away. This gave us about a 25% return in the stock over a seven month period.

In Update #286, we wrote options on some of our energy holdings.

For subscribers who own Ensco Intl (ESV), we recommended selling the January \$55 calls (ESVAK) for \$2.10.

For subscribers who own Talisman Energy (TLM), we recommended selling the January \$16.63 calls (TLMAQ) for \$1.05.

if that person is the subject of another country, or even its *leader* (as Yushchenko is).

In *Global War for Oil*, I compared Russia to Nazi Germany. Putin isn't quite as murderous as Hitler was, but in many ways his rise is similar.

Hitler consolidated his grip on power by setting fire to the German Reichstag building, and blaming it on his enemies. Putin came to power on a wave of public outrage over bombings of apartment buildings in 1999—bombings which stopped when *his own government agents* were caught planting explosives in another building. (Several of Putin's victims listed above were investigating the bombings when they were murdered.)

Hitler built his popularity among the German people by invading Czechoslovakia and Austria. Putin built his popularity by invading Chechnya, whom he blamed for the bombings.

Hitler murdered millions of Jews in an attempted genocide. Putin has murdered hundreds of thousands of Chechens in similar fashion, wiping entire Chechen villages clean off the map. For example, the Chechen capital of Grozny used to be a beautiful, historic city of 420,000 people. Today it's a smoldering ruin: Putin has destroyed it. (Reporters were amazed that non-nuclear weapons could so thoroughly flatten a city. A British reporter has described it as the "Hiroshima of the Caucasus.")

But Russia is unlike Nazi Germany in one important way. Hitler had few natural resources at his disposal, while Putin's Russia owns much of the world's reserves of vitally important materials.

A hostile, murderous thug now controls the world's largest supply of natural gas, and is the world's second-largest supplier of oil. Plus, he's increasingly hostile to the West, supplying weapons to countries who've promised to use them against us (like North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela).

All this is just more support for high prices of gold and oil.

The Dollar Plummets: A Preview of Things to Come

Since January 1, the dollar has plunged 9.2 percent against the euro.

All the politicians and media commentators are scratching their heads over this mystery. Why should such a thing happen?

I shouldn't be surprised anymore by such

stupidity—I really shouldn’t—but I still am. How can our “leaders” be so blind?

Remember when the Republican Party stood for limiting government spending? Remember President Reagan’s famous line, “Bigger government isn’t the solution to the problem—it *is* the problem”?

Those days are long gone. Actually, they were gone even by Reagan’s time—despite his passionate rhetoric, federal spending ballooned during his Administration. And it swelled further under Bush Senior. And further again under Clinton. And now most of all under George W.

Both Republicans and Democrats have long since forgotten any sense of fiscal responsibility. They’ve betrayed their duties to serve their country, and are destroying it instead.

Here’s a perfect example. Senator Bill Frist is leaving Congress. He has absolutely no motive to “bring home the pork” for his home state of Tennessee—he’s not running for re-election, so he no longer needs to buy any votes. Plus, as a Republican, he claims to be fiscally responsible.

Despite all that, he *still* couldn’t resist stuffing a last-minute tax bill with appropriations for his state. He’s robbing taxpayers across the nation—that’s you and me—and forcing us to pay for, among other things, \$3 million in tax breaks for songwriters (there’s lots of these in Nashville), millions more to pay Tennessee hospitals for treating underinsured patients, and other such “emergency” expenses for people in his home state.

Hey, if Tennessee voters want to donate millions to their local songwriters, that’s fine. But you and I shouldn’t have to pay for it. Nevertheless, Bill Frist thinks we should, *even though it gives him no political advantage*. He just can’t help himself, apparently—he *has* to confiscate our money.

After all, our plans for our own money are irrelevant. Maybe you were planning to buy a house, or you needed to send your kid to college. Or maybe you were saving money for an important medical operation. Or maybe you were even going to donate money to your *own* local hospital. None of that matters. Bill Frist took your money to pay for *his* local hospital, along with those vitally-important-to-national-security Country & Western songs.

Of course, Frist wasn’t alone in his pork-gorging. The same bill included, among other things, \$4.9 billion for increased retirement benefits for coal miners. It’s outrageous that such things were included, but at least you can understand the coal-state senators’ motives for doing so.

But even the politicians leaving office, who have no political need to buy votes, still do this. This just illustrates how hopeless our situation is. When even the most “conservative” politicians are so hopelessly addicted to pork, our economy is doomed.

Of course, I’m sure Senator Frist and our other “leaders” would object strenuously to my description above. They’d point out that Congress didn’t raise taxes to pay for their pork. Therefore, they didn’t take any of your money (no more than the government already does, anyway).

That’s all true. But it’s also completely irrelevant. Congress has borrowed obscene amounts of money to pay for all the pork. And everybody in Washington seems to have forgotten a basic fact...

Whatever You Borrow, You Must Repay

When you and I borrow something, we repay it later from our future production.

If you have a job or own a business, you contribute goods and services to the economy. Value is produced, and you receive a financial benefit (wages or profits)

One or two senators actually seem to realize how far they’ve fallen.

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), the outgoing chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, blasted his own party’s performance in a speech about the tax bill.

“The American people took the reins of government away from the Republican Party relative to the Republican Congress in this last election... They did so, I think, in large part because they were tired of our hypocrisy as a party on the issue of fiscal responsibility. And it would appear that their concerns are justified. It is true, I guess.”

He said the incoming Democrats would be irresponsible too, “but at least they won’t be hypocritical about it...”

“You just have to ask yourself how we, as a party, got to this point, where we have a leadership which is going to ram down the throats of our party the biggest budget-buster in the history of the Congress under Republican leadership. Well, anyway, the American people figured it out, and I’m sorry we haven’t figured it out yet.”

Wake up, Washington! Wake up!

as a result. This capital can be used to repay your debts, if you incur any.

The government, on the other hand, produces almost no value for the economy. Think about it—what goods does the government manufacture? Nothing. What commodities are grown or mined by the government? None. What of any value is created by the government? Nothing.

About the only value the government provides to the economy comes in the form of services: law enforcement, national defense, etc. But these are more “defensive” (preserving value) than productive (creating value).

So if the government produces no value, what will it use to repay the debts it incurs? Or more accurately, from *whom* will it take the money to repay its debts?

The answer is obvious. It’s you and me.

Libertarian commentator Wilton Alston has coined a great phrase to describe our situation. You and I are now “taxation livestock.” The government spends and spends and spends, and you and I will be taxed again and again and again to pay for it all.

But Congress has already far outspent its ability to tax us. Politicians know that if we had to pay “cash as we go” for all the outrageous pork they want, taxpayers would rebel and throw these criminals out of office.

So they borrow the money instead. But eventually the international lenders will wise up and stop lending to a bankrupt nation.

At that point, Congress’ only option will be to print money. And we know what that means—a plunging currency, massive inflation, and skyrocketing gold.

When will that happen? I expect it soon. In fact, there’s something interesting going on right now as I write this...

Why are ALL our economic leaders visiting China?

I’ve written before that the dollar is on the verge of collapse. All it needs to send it over the edge is for a large foreign dollar-holder to start dumping its hoard.

Central banks and other large dollar-holders are already jittery—the value of their “investment” has fallen by 9.2 percent just in the last 12 months. But once a large holder sells, this will trigger panic selling among everybody else as they all stampede

for the exits simultaneously. Nobody wants to start the panic, but nobody wants to be the last one out the door either. So they’re all eyeballing each other nervously.

Why then are *all* of our economic leaders visiting China right now? Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Fed chairman Ben Bernanke, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, and no less than four other Cabinet-level officials are all in China as I write this for a summit with Chinese leaders.

Could it have something to do with China’s enormous dollar hoard (China has over \$1 trillion in foreign exchange reserves)? Could it have something to do with the Chinese announcement that it will start diversifying out of the dollar, and into other currencies?

Could it be that our top economic officials are in China to grovel before Communist leaders, begging them to not sell their dollars and start a panic among other greenback holders?

Why else would they be there? This delegation is completely unprecedented. No other explanation makes sense, especially since several of the officials have nothing to do with foreign relations at all—their duties revolve around the U.S. economy and banking system only.

The only question is whether or not they’ll succeed. But even if they do, it will be only temporary.

Greenback holders around the world are getting tired of watching their dollars plunge in value. Sooner or later, somebody will sell, and the mass dollar-dumping will begin. It might be China, it might be somebody else—but it will happen eventually.

At that point, the dollar will stop being a reserve currency, and the global game of “hot potato” will begin. Gold will go to the moon, as investors dump their greenbacks and flee to gold’s inherent value.

As 2006 Ends, Our Approach is Right on Track

Our *GEA* philosophy is, I believe, the perfect approach for the times we live in.

Gold and oil are both going higher—*much* higher, in my opinion. \$1,000 and \$100, respectively, seem like conservative predictions at this point.

When will this happen? It wouldn’t surprise me to see these numbers by this time next year. If you aren’t already prepared—now’s the time!