

Bonpasse: Common cents just makes sense

BY CHRISTOPHER COUSINS

Times Record Staff

NEWCASTLE

Morrison Bonpasse has a plan to change the world's change by 2024.

It's all laid out in his 2006 book, "The Single Global Currency: Common Cents for the World."

Bonpasse of Newcastle isn't an economist or an expert on currency, but that didn't stop him from selling his business and using the proceeds to launch the Single Global Currency Association in June 2003. His book details a plan that would result in every country in the world using the same money, perhaps something called the "Mundo" or "Eartha."

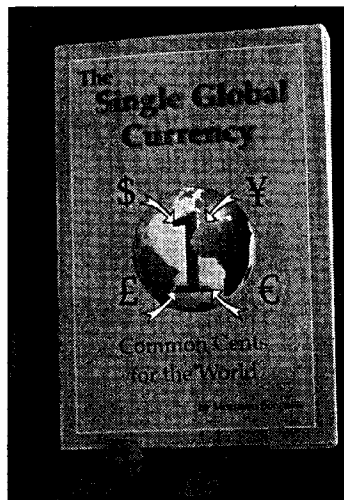
Gone would be the dollar, the Euro, the yen and all of the 147 currencies that

exist today.

"How important is this book?" wrote Bonpasse in his preface. "You may be reading the most important book you have ever read, because the topic will save the world — trillions."

Though the language of international currency exchange is complex and confusing for some people, Bonpasse said the problem and the solution are "elegantly simple."

The problem, he said, is that there are 190 different currencies in the world — 147 in United Nations countries alone — each with its own value relative to the others. That fact necessitates a host of complications virtually any time a transaction occurs across national borders. Bonpasse and others estimate



that some \$2.5 trillion changes hands each day in foreign exchange trading — meaning that a lot of individuals, corporations and governments are buying and selling a lot of money.

Consolidating currencies would shut this process down,

said Bonpasse, and help stabilize volatile economies and shelter them from economic fluctuations out of their control. Hundreds of billions of dollars that are paid in fees to all this currency trading also would be saved.

But foreign exchange trading happens on a smaller scale, as well. A weekend trip to Canada, for example, requires the purchase of Canadian money, and transactions with online companies from overseas do, too — even though the consumer might not realize it. The cost of trading the currency is buried in the cost of the product.

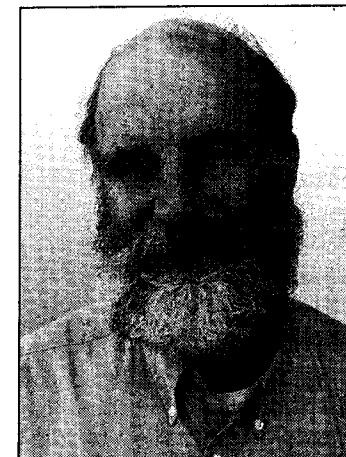
But Bonpasse's task seems so daunting: How can the nations of the world be convinced to give up their currency? Many of them would

do it if they saw other countries doing it, too. And the problems caused by currency trading are slowly pushing the world toward a single global currency anyway, he said.

"I'm just trying to be a good human being," said Bonpasse, who is also known for his role in trying to exonerate convicted murderer Dennis Dechaine — though he has taken a less vocal and visible role in that fight recently.

"This is going to happen," he said of acceptance of a global currency. "The only question is when and how rocky will the road be."

Last month, Bonpasse held his third annual Single Global Currency conference at the Mt. Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, N.H. There were only about 10 speakers, but



Morrison Bonpasse

Bonpasse promises next year's conference will be larger and better.

And Bonpasse recently finished having his book recorded in audio form so people can listen instead of read.

"I think this will happen," he said. "In fact, I think this will happen within 17 years."

More information about the Single Global Currency Association can be found at www.singleglobalcurrency.org.