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Financial wizard and prophet

By Paul J. Rockel

What's in store for your financial future? Wouldn't we all love to know the answer!

Your financial future certainly depends upon what you do with your earnings. If you decide to spend them all, then it is certain that your financial future will be bleak. Government pension plans are unfunded and have never proved to be satisfactory, and they lose purchasing power as inflation moves along.

But, what if you indeed decide to save, what does the future hold for those savings? Important question, and one we'd all like to know the answer to.

One of the people that I have admired for years is John Templeton, founder of the Templeton Group of mutual funds and of the Templeton Foundation, which awards an annual prize, greater in value than the Nobel prizes, to the person who has done the most to achieve "Progress in Religion".

Today, books have been written about Sir John (who has been knighted by the Queen not for his financial achievements, but for his humanitarian work) and he is considered one of the top financial managers in the world. But, it wasn't always so.

In 1960 when a U.S. Federal Reserve official explained how the international financial system worked (fixed exchange rates, based on gold, throughout the world), John Templeton stood up in the seminar and said flatly we'd be off the gold standard in 10 years, and that currencies would float within 15 years. He further forecast the U.S. dollar would weaken. Everyone thought he was crazy at the time, but all his forecasts came

In 1968 when the Dow Jones Index hit 1,000, he came out and said that it would sell in the low



600's in the early 1970's. Everyone laughed, but he was right.

The Dow Jones average went down to 600 in 1974 and when it was still in that range in the early 80's, John Templeton forecast that there was a 50% chance that the Dow Jones Index would reach 3000 in the next decade. They laughed again.

But, now the market has gone up more than five times from its low, when he made his forecast 10 years ago. Will it double again (or better) to reach 6000 in the next decade? Sir John says that there is a 50% chance that it will.

Many people laughed at his long range forecasts in the past, and they were wrong. I'm betting that he will be right again.

All the while, over these turbulent times the Templeton Growth fund has achieved a compound annual rate of return of 16.8% to March 31, 1993. That's why my savings are in mutual funds, where I believe John Templeton will be right again and my values will more than double in the next 5 to 10 years.

Will yours?

Plan to attend a seminar on international investing featuring the Templeton Funds on Tuesday at the North Halton Golf Club. For details, see the ad elsewhere in this paper or contact Peter C. Masson, M.B.A., Regal Capital Planners Ltd., 10 Fagan Drive, Georgetown, Ontario. Phone 877-7216.

Paul J. Rockel is the author of "Why I Invest in Mutual Funds" and Chairman of Regal Capital Planners, a 25 year-old financial planning company with offices from coast to coast in Canada.



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TIME:

North Halton Golf & Country Club, PLACE: Maple & Trafalgar Rds, Georgetown

SEATING IS LIMITED TO 100 PEOPLE

Please call Pete Masson at 416-877-7216 or Bill Hopkins at 416-873-2381

to reserve your seat

