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On Wednesday, Peter Schiff - president of Euro Pacific Capital - and Nouriel Roubini, an economist at NYU, discussed the state of the economy, the future of inflation and the direction of gold prices. Both figures are well known to correctly predict the housing crisis long before it happened. Schiff argued that the economy is weak and continues to weaken, given the Federal Reserve's policy on easy money, low interest rates and quantitative easing. He argued that as a result, gold prices would continue to rise, and that we would eventually see a much higher price for gold in the coming years, and the Federal Reserve continued to buy Treasury bonds in order to subsidize America's debt. He argued that while this policy may be inflating asset prices and while it may be sending stock prices to all-time highs, it is ultimately a damaging economic policy that will weaken the economy. Roubini believes that the economy is improving as a result of Federal Reserve policy, and that the economy will eventually benefit from low inflation. He also noted that during the Great Depression and the recent financial crisis we saw deflation, and that it is a state of affairs that the Federal Reserve inflation target of 2 percent is designed to avoid. He also predicted a decline in the price of gold. While Roubini is right in stating that we have seen weekly economies coincide with periods of deflation, it is lacking in the fact that deflation was a consequence - a corrective phenomenon - that was the result of misjudgable assets. During the Great Depression, the value of the US dollar was distorted. During World War I, the Federal Reserve increased its cash reserves so we could fund the war. However, at that time the dollar was pegged to the price of gold at \$20.60, and despite the fact that the Federal Reserve increased the amount of money, the price of gold remained the same. In short, the dollar has become overvalued in that it can buy too much gold. As a result, foreigners are lured to invest in the U.S. so they can accumulate dollars and buy gold inexpensively. This led to an economic boom that reached an extreme level. As a result, in 1929 we had a stock market crash and a subsequent banking crisis in the early 1930s. The decline in asset prices was a consequence of the previous unreasonable increase in asset prices. In other words, asset prices are deflated, but it was a process where these assets come down to their correct valuation. While it hurt a lot of people - especially those who owned stocks or who had bank accounts in banks that failed - it was ultimately a necessary correction if the U.S. economy were to get to the point where it could start to grow again. Similarly, during the 2007 financial crisis years of deflation that we saw was the result of the previous boom. Inflated house prices and a second economic boom from that extra money entering the economy was a problem. The market tried to fix this as bad loans defaulted and house prices got off absurd levels. Despite the fact that inflation causes asset prices to rise, the fact remains that we would all be better off if prices would decline. The price reduction is the result of increased market efficiency and is the result of beneficial competition. The company lowers prices because it believes that it can make a profit at a lower price, at the same time it puts itself in an excellent competitive position. The company raises prices because it is forced: commodity prices, labor prices, taxes are all rising and the company can only make a profit at a higher price. The company is in a worse position because it has to make a decision between maintaining its margins and alienating its customer base. The consumer is worse because he has to spend more to buy goods and services. In the future, the Federal Reserve is likely to continue its quantitative easing program. Even if this is not the case, however, the price of gold can still rise. The fact that the cash supply has increased so much over the last few years is still not reflected in the price of gold. In fact, the base cash supply has grown 10 times since 1980 - 1999 bear market ended, but the price of gold is only about 5 times. Also keep in mind that gold has risen 5 times from a multi-year low, which means that it began its 5-fold ascent from a very depressive level. While it is difficult to say where the price of gold will end up, it is obvious that in the long run this level will be much higher than the current price. Ultimately, despite his credentials, Roubini's arguments have no sense, no common sense, no concrete justification. Just because GDP numbers are rising, and just because the stock market is growing doesn't mean the economy is better. Consumers are still struggling and they have a lot of debt. The main reason for this is that prices go up, and even if wages go up as well, taxes are eaten into these increases. In addition, it does not give any reason to justify his belief that gold will continue to fall, except that the dollar will rise. Of course, these are two sides of the same coin: their two-state does not add any information to an argument that ultimately fails. In an earlier article we wrote about how there was still a lot of uncertainty in the economy and the market, and discussed which assets to choose to add to your portfolio in such a scenario. Here's a repeat of what the previous installment: 1. Mosaic Co. (NYSE: MOS) Mosaic shares were up more than 4.46 percent for the year, though that's after a lousy 2013. The company has been hit by lower fertilizer prices, which has been a major headwind over the past few years. Stocks fell last summer as Eastern European potash disintegrated, which threatened to hit the price of potassium. However, Mosaic was ready for weakness. He kept a lot of cash, and he didn't have a lot of debt. As a result, she was quite able to buy back her own shares and depressed fertilizer assets on the cheap. In early 2014, it completed a deal with CF Industries (NYSE:CF) to buy the company's phosphate mine, and bought \$1.7 billion in shares. As a result, the company has a very good position to benefit as agricultural commodity prices rise and as investors become interested in fertilizer stocks once again. 2. Altria Group (NYSE:MO) Tobacco may not be as sexy as social media, but it works this year. The country's leading tobacco producer, Altria Group, grew by 4.38 percent for the year. The company trades with just under 16 times the profit and it pays 4.7 percent of its dividend. Both metrics make stocks extremely attractive compared to the S/P 500 index. The company should be able to provide investors with a stable income for years to come, as it has universal brand recognition (Marlboro) and it has an incredible price strength - net profit exceeded 21 percent last quarter. Investors are looking for security, and they are looking for a way out, and Altria Group provides both. Investors who are concerned about the weakening dollar may want to consider Philip Morris (NYSE: PM) instead. The company sells products all over the world, and so it is a good way to bet on the weakening of the dollar when collecting good dividends. 3. iShares Barclays 20 Year Treasury Bond ETF (NYSEARCA:TLT) Treasury ended 2013 at a low point, and investors were absolutely convinced that interest rates should have been raised. It doesn't matter what your view of the economy is. If you were bullish, there was no gong to be a big rotation of bonds and in stocks. In addition, the bullish stance means the Federal Reserve will stop buying bonds, which means demand will weaken. If you were bearish, then inflation should have made bonds unattractive, especially for our biggest foreign lenders such as China and Japan. Even so, the bond market was stairwaying higher, and TLT rose 12 per cent for the year excluding dividend payments. I suspect this will continue as investors become increasingly concerned about economically sensitive stocks. While they are still likely to bet down the dollar and bet up commodity prices, it does not require bond yields to rise. The Federal Reserve still buys a lot of bonds, and while Chinese purchases have declined, the People's Bank can't just sell all their bonds in order to stock up on commodities, commodities, if that is his long-term goal. In this case, the Treasury remain excellent opposite rates that will continue to work. Disclosure: Ben Kramer-Miller has long stakes in Mosaic Co. and CF Industries, and owns gold coins and select gold miners. More from the St. Cheat Wall sheet: The shadow of impeachment darkened even a light-hearted turkey pardon on Tuesday, when President Donald Trump used his speech to ridicule the top Democrat leading the investigation, Adam Schiff. Presidents were pardoning turkeys back in the Abraham Lincoln administration, and it's traditionally a family affair, with young relatives of the sitting president taking part and the president usually giving humorous speeches. Trump, of course, had jokes, but the opposing side may not have found them so funny. After detailing how the turkey, named bread and butter, was raised by farmer Wellie Jackson in North Carolina, Trump proceeded to crack a joke about how Rep. Adam Schiff was looking to testify before the House Intelligence Committee.-The White House (@WhiteHouse) November 26, 2019K thankfully, bread and butter were specifically raised by the Jacksons to remain calm on any condition that would be very important, because they had already received a subpoena. It is true: There are hundreds of people, Trump said. The Democrats seem to accuse me of being too soft on Turkey, the president added, joking about his decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, allowing Turkish troops to attack longtime U.S. allies the Kurds. Adam Schiff. Michael Brochstein/Echoes Wire/Barcroft Media via Getty Images But bread and butter, I have to point out that unlike previous witnesses, we did meet, Trump said, referring to the fact that some of the officials called to testify at the impeachment hearings did not witness certain events first-hand. Trump ended the ceremony with a pardon for a bird named Butterd. Bread, an alternative turkey, will also get to spend the rest of your life at Gobblers Vacations at Virginia Tech University. University.

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