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Special Alert

Dr. Larry Bates' and Chuck Bates' new book, *A Nation in Crisis: the Meltdown of Money, Government, and Religion*, has just been released in hardcover and is available at www.anationincrisis.com, or by calling 1-800-336-7000. The book provides strategies for minimizing the effects of the meltdown on your assets and on your political and religious freedoms.

Potential Food Shortages

The European Food Safety Authority is investigating potential food safety risks emerging from the volcanic eruption in Iceland. The investigation centers on the chemical composition of the ashes and the potential contamination of the food and feed chain by high levels of fluorine in the ash. The volcanic eruption has cost airlines over \$200 million per day during "no fly" days, and even affects air cargo and trade and commerce between several countries.

Here in the U.S. a stretch of land from southern South Dakota through northern Texas, covering over 174,000 square miles, is irrigated from a massive underground lake called the Ogallala Aquifer. In fact, over 20 percent of the irrigated acreage in this country is over the Ogallala. Problem is, the Ogallala is being drained at an alarming rate and is running dry. In areas where the aquifer has been depleted, it looks like a desert. The great plains farming areas fed by the Ogallala supply of water produce such large quantities of grain that any disruption of that supply would cause a ripple effect around the world, not unlike 2007 when fuel costs drove up corn prices and triggered food crises around the world, particularly in Mexico.

Everyone should have up to a 90-day food supply in your pantry, consisting of grocery staples that you rotate out by date acquired. We suggest a 6- to 12-month supply of freeze-dried foods. For a free catalogue of these foods, *MER* readers may call 1-800-325-0919 ext. 7470. This is also a hedge against inflation as you lock in the price of your food prices prior to inflation kicking in.