

**One final question that will make you think just a little bit. If I gave you a magic wand that allowed you to change just one thing about the financial markets or investing, what would it be?**

**Sam Stovall:** To stop myself from allowing emotions to influence my investment decisions. However, I may have come up with my own magic wand a few years back when I wrote a book on rules-based sector rotation strategies called *The Seven Rules of Wall Street*. As a result, I now have the opportunity to share some of these rules with my fellow emotional investors through rules-based portfolios now offered through PCM!

**Wow! You not only will get to see a spike in your book sales, Sam but you get extra credit points for mentioning that your strategies can be accessed through PCM.**

**John, you must have some thoughts on how to use market omnipotence?**

**John Mauldin:** I would completely revamp the tax code, stick in a value-added tax, lower the overall income tax, and balance the US budget. I think that would have an enormously positive outcome on the markets. Now, there's all sorts of nuances, and 100 questions that pop up when I say that I simply want to do those things. There's actually a Democratic candidate who's proposing essentially the same thing. I did an op ed with Steve Moore on the subject four years ago in 2016. Nobody's worried about deficits, and I think they are going to be the real problem in the 2020s. We are going to have a \$45 trillion-dollar total debt, \$15 to \$20 trillion dollars on the Fed balance sheet, and it gets worse as you go around the world. I am not sure how we are going to deal with all this debt — we literally cannot pay it. And at some point, we are going to have to recognize that we cannot make those payments. Either that, or we take everything negative, which is not good, certainly not good for savers, not good for retirees. We are painting ourselves into a really tough corner here.

**As ruler of Oz, what does John DeTore do?**

**John DeTore:** I seriously wish I had invented high-frequency trading back when it was fun and innovative. I promise I would put my \$B's to good use. But seriously, I wish we would pass legislation (tax or regulation) that made it attractive to spinoff companies rather than merge them. Many evils in our economy stem from too few firms that are too large and influential (drugs, tech, banking). This is doable and would affect income disparity more than any of the proposals I hear from politicians. It would add many more senior and middle managers who are talented and can drive innovation better with some independence.

**And finally, Clint, as ruler of the financial world, what would you implement?**

**Clint Pekrul:** My response might be a bit off, but if I had that magic wand, I'd spread financial literacy across the public. There are so many instances where the average person does not understand basic finance, such as compound interest and growing wealth through investments. There are basic things anybody can do to help their financial situation, and the foremost is not living beyond your means (i.e. going into debt). Why save a portion of your paycheck to a retirement plan? It's only a few bucks. But over time, compounding works to your benefit, and can lead to a comfortable retirement. Simply avoiding credit card debt can increase your personal rate of return. I could go on and on, but my magic wand would help a lot of people.

**And there we have it, we end with nobility.**

**Thank each of you for sharing your market insight and collective wisdom, this was a lot of fun.**