

The Scott Letter: *Closed-End Fund Report*©



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The Scott Letter Online is intended to educate global investors. [[What are closed-end funds?](#)] Closed-end funds can be a valuable and profitable investment tool. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who you believe could benefit from information on closed-end funds or global portfolios. You may also visit our website [www.CEFadvisors.com] Please call (800) 356-3508 or email: cefa@CEFadvisors.com to get started with one of our managed portfolios. We currently offer portfolios with the following objectives: 1. Global Balanced Growth 2. Global Balanced Income 3. International & REIT 4. Single Country Fund & ETF 5. Long/Short Market Neutral.

For more information on closed-end funds, please visit the [[Investor Resources](#)] section on our website, [[Closed-End Fund Association](#)] or Capital Link's [[Closed-End Fund Forum](#)].

Back issues of *The Scott Letter Online* are available on our website. They include interviews with [Aberdeen Australia Equity Fund](#), [Adams Express](#), [Allied Capital](#), [Asia Pacific Fund](#), [Ellsworth & Bancroft Convertible Funds](#), [Central European Equity & Russian Fund](#), [General American Investors](#), [H & Q Healthcare Investors](#), [Latin America Equity & Brazilian Equity Fund](#), [Pan Pacific Realty](#), [Renaissance Capital](#), [Royce Funds](#), [Templeton Funds](#) and [Tri-Continental Corp.](#)

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U.S. Investors Place Record Bets in Europe and Asia

U.S. net purchases of overseas shares jumped in 2003 to a record \$72 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. This easily eclipses the former mark of \$63 billion from 1993. In 2004, appetite

for foreign stocks may be even greater: Through May, U.S. investors bought \$36.7 billion more in non U.S. stocks than they sold, which puts them on pace to be net buyers of \$90 billion for the year -- a 25% rise over last year's purchases.

The best performing fund groups in 2004 to September 30 were the Latin American funds, +37.93% to date, with Brazil the market leader, followed by emerging markets funds, +20.99%. The strongest region was Eastern European funds, +27.81% year-to-date.

This foreign interest comes during a time when some argue that momentum from the U.S. led global recovery is shifting overseas, a trend we have been following for sometime. The cumulative effect of Federal Reserve interest rate cuts, government tax cuts, consumer refinances of mortgages and companies rebuilding their balance sheets, helped drive the global stock market rally.

The flow of money into foreign-stock mutual funds aimed at individuals is increasing at a faster rate than that of money into U.S. stock funds. According to AMG Data Services, a research company that tracks mutual fund cash flows, overseas equity funds saw increases of more than \$31 billion in 2004 through late July. The focus on the foreign markets has been hot, while the U.S. dollar has been in an extended bear market for several years. That makes profits from overseas stocks look better when translated back into the U.S. currency. At the same time, overseas investor interest in the U.S. has been waning which has significant implications for the U.S. current account deficit.

Global portfolio managers, including Closed-End Fund Advisors, say it is a disadvantage to limit a portfolio to the U.S. when many of the world's best companies and fast-growing economies are found abroad.

We think that it pays to look closely at other parts of the world, particularly Asia, where large numbers of people are joining the global economy. Many other money managers concur with this assessment. Still, at the moment, overseas investments are but a small fraction of the money Americans invest in domestic shares.

Overseas investing often comes with additional risks and costs, due to often-weaker corporate governance and poor disclosure to shareholders. Mark Mobius, the esteemed emerging markets pioneer for Franklin-Templeton Investments, has done much to improve corporate governance by serving on Boards of Directors of foreign companies and encouraging others to raise their standards.

This year, concern about China's effort to slow its economy has dulled some of the enthusiasm for Asia and other emerging markets, like Brazil that export commodities to China. However, fresh attention is being paid to European shares, particularly to the Eastern European economies. By some estimates, European stock valuations on average are about 25% lower than U.S. peers, based on price-earnings ratios.

For some time, we have been avoiding funds in Western Europe, favoring those in Eastern and Central Europe, whose economies have higher growth rates. In spite of this, we are now considering using the regional closed-end fund for Western Europe, The Europe Fund.

(Compiled from reports in The Wall Street Journal and The Financial Times).

What Are Exchange Traded Funds?

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are shares of portfolios intended to replicate the performance of underlying indices. There are now ETFs, which match most U.S. stock indices, many sectors and many foreign markets, both individual countries and regions.

ETFs trade on exchanges throughout the day and are purchased through brokers. They allow investors to gain broad exposure to a market through a single purchase. There are no sales loads although brokerage commissions are charged. ETFs may be sold short and are exempt from the “uptick” rule, the requirement that stocks can only be shorted when the sales price has risen. ETF holders receive their shares of the dividends paid by the stocks in the underlying portfolio.

ETFs are essentially index funds and have certain advantages. Because there is only passive portfolio management, expense and management fees tend to be relatively low. ETFs are also tax-efficient because stocks are bought and sold to keep the ETF performance in line with that of an index.

ETFs can be used in a number of ways by investors to pursue certain strategies. Many investors use ETFs for their entire portfolios, since they give exposure to broad markets. Other investors use ETFs as their “core” holdings but buy other securities to trade or further diversify. ETFs also allow investors “instant” participation in a market, while subsequently deciding individual securities to buy; they can also be used to hedge portfolios or portions thereof.

ETFs have a number of characteristics in common with closed-end funds (CEFs) and also some differences. For example, while ETF prices may move to premiums and discounts over net asset value, those are likely to be very small. This is because the structure of ETFs allows for arbitrage profits whenever the price and NAV diverge significantly: they are created from the stocks of an underlying portfolio and can be redeemed into the stocks at any time. In practice, only large institutional investors will generally have the resources to carry out this arbitrage, but the overall effect is to keep premiums and discounts very small.

ETFs increase their asset size both through appreciation of the underlying portfolios and also by large investors who deposit the shares of a portfolio of stocks replicating an index with a trustee. Similarly, shares can be redeemed for the underlying stocks (generally in order to arbitrage profits).

Source: “Transforming the Process of Investing” published by the American Stock Exchange.

(Closed-End Fund Advisors may start using some ETFs in their portfolios for the foreign markets. The biggest challenge for successful investing, including ETF investing, involves sound portfolio construction and deciding when and why to buy or sell a position. ETFs are a good alternative when the CEF goes to a premium. However, we tend to prefer closed-end funds because of the discount and the usually larger distributions - ED)

Adding ETFs Action to the Mix

Exchange-Traded Funds are becoming more active and are looking more like actively managed funds. Now there are two ETFs that attempt to beat market indexes rather than merely match them.

More are on the way.

“Some of these new products coming out are testing how far the SEC will allow the marketplace to go toward actively managed ETFs,” says Jim Kelly, executive vice president of Walnut Asset Management in Philadelphia.

As of August 31, statistics from Morgan Stanley show, exchange traded fund trading volumes worldwide had risen nearly 20 percent in 2004, and about 313 of them were listed on markets in the United States and overseas, up from virtually none a decade ago.

Assets in U.S. ETFs stood at \$173 billion as of July, spreading over more than 143 ETFs. Most ETFs track domestic portfolios, tracking indexes such as large-cap growth, large-cap value and other portfolios; our interest is in using them for our global portfolios. We cannot ignore this segment of the fund industry.

ETFs Provide Access to Booming China

As the Chinese economy has grown into a colossus over the last decade, many investors in the United States are looking for ways to capitalize on China’s strength. UK and US investors now can invest in exchange traded funds to gain access to the booming Chinese economy. A new fund, iShares FTSE/Xinhua 25, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FXI and has had a strong demand after its October 8 debut.

Barclays Global Investors, the British Banking giant and largest ETF provider, recently launched the first ETF available to U.S. investors focusing on stocks of 25 companies in mainland China. Barclays includes many of the country’s largest businesses that trade on the Hong Kong or Shanghai exchanges. Barclays has a line-up of 97 exchange-traded funds, propelling the firm into one of the largest and fastest growing mutual fund companies.

State Street Global Advisors, the number two provider, is working with the Shanghai Stock Exchange to create an ETF that will track 50 top Shanghai stocks. Other firms are following close behind to develop ETFs focusing on China. Demand for these issues is expected to be strong.

Only a handful of mutual and closed-end funds invest in the 1200 plus listed companies traded on the three stock exchanges in China. However, researching Chinese stocks listed in Hong Kong can be tough for individual investors not fluent in Chinese corporate governance: the costs are also high because of the relatively opaque Chinese market.

Investing in Hong Kong offers better disclosure rules and more reasonable valuations. This explains why the value investor, Mark Mobius of Franklin Templeton Investments, tells us he favors investing in Hong Kong shares over the more expensive shares listed on the mainland exchanges.

What are the risks in purchasing these index funds for ordinary investors? They “should be used sparingly at best,” said Dan Culloton, mutual fund analyst at Morningstar Inc. who has studied the Barclays offering. He cites several caveats, such as systemic political and economic risk, unemployment, labor unrest and problems in the banking sector making the Chinese markets

extremely volatile.

The Barclays offerings also will focus on a small number of stocks for an ETF, including China Mobile, the cell phone company; PetroChina, the oil company; and China Telecom and China Life Insurance.

The combined capitalization of China's two exchanges outside of Hong Kong (Shanghai and Shenzhen) is \$500 billion, but 70% of the shares are held by large state entities. Up to now they haven't been traded. Now, the government is expected to allow these shares to trade, which, if this happens, prices may collapse.

These ETFs will have lower expenses than China-centered mutual funds and closed-end funds because they track indexes. The expense ratio of the new fund is estimated to be 0.74 percent, whereas actively managed funds focusing on Asia, excluding Japan, average 2.2 percent.

Lee Kranefuss, chief executive of iShares, the part of Barclays Global responsible for ETFs, said he expected demand for the offering to be split equally between retail and institutional investors.

The short-term risks of investing in China are hard to assess. China still faces serious political risks, although it seems to have reduced the chances of an economic hard landing in the near term. Chinese officials told recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund that inflation had remained below 6 percent and money supply growth had been curbed. The Shanghai market in late October was 40% off its peak in 2001 and average multiples have come down to about 25. China is still one of the riskiest markets in the world, especially for minority shareholders.

For the most part, though, the appeal of China is likely to depend on China's longer-term future, which appears to be bright. China is still the world's hottest investment spot, in spite of a lot of hype, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

For fund investors, we still favor closed-end funds for investment in China and elsewhere, but ETFs can be a viable investment alternative when discounts narrow or if you want to concentrate in a particular segment of a market such as oil.

(Compiled from reports in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal).

The Stock Markets in Europe: An Update

The value of Europe's stock markets (excluding the U.K.) has shrunk by about 0.5% in the past year as new supplies of stock increased at an average rate of 8.1% a year, according to strategists at Citigroup Smith Barney in London.

Beginning with Britain in the 1980s and followed by the continental countries in the 1990s, European governments sold off huge chunks of companies they controlled. IPOs also became an everyday event.

The European stock markets have now increased in size as European companies acquired U.S.

companies—Daimler Benz AG's takeover of Chrysler Corp., UBS AG's purchase of Paine Webber Group Inc. to name only a few of the rampant buying surges in the early eighties. During this period, the market cap of the Eurozone fell 43% in 2002 while in the U.K. it fell 115%, according to Citigroup. Privatizations have now slowed and so have IPOs as the European companies are no longer gobbling up U.S. assets the way they did in the 1990s.

This “de-stocking” should support European and especially U.K. share prices. “The cash returned (to investors from corporations) via buyouts, buybacks, bids and dividends will be recycled and slowly push the market higher until equity inflows return,” according to Robert Buckland, the head of pan-European equity strategy for Citigroup.

For investment in Western Europe, there is the Europe Fund, (EF-NYSE) a diversified, closed-end management investment company managed in London. The Fund's investment objective is long-term capital appreciation through investment primarily in Europe's equity securities. The fund may also invest in European debt securities. The advisor is Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.

For reports, see the Closed-End Fund Association at www.cefa.com. Go to “Click Here” for more information. You will be able to pull up a recently report on EF.

Central European Countries Struggling with the Euro

Since joining the European Union in May, Central European countries have struggled to hold together their fragile governments. Now, they are struggling with the next step: adopting the Eurozone's common currency.

The problem with adopting the euro is the budget deficits of the new EU members, averaging 5.7% of gross domestic product in 2003. This is well beyond the 3% limit required for entry into the euro club.

Despite relatively strong growth in the region, deficits are expected to decline only slightly in 2004 as governments try to reign-in spending. This has inflamed the citizens of these countries. Public opinion about their governments has plummeted, particularly in the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. Six of the former Communist countries that joined in May have replaced their Prime Ministers this year. This posed grave dangers for progress toward adopting of the euro, particularly with elections coming in 2005 and 2006. Experience in Germany and France show that deficits soar after taking on the currency.

The outcome is uncertain as some countries are catching up fast with help of high levels of foreign investment while others remain stuck in a poverty belt, with problems that seemingly defy solution, according to a recent special report on *The Financial Times*.

Romania is scheduled to join the European Union later in 2004 and Bulgaria in 2007. We will be examining this and other issues in our interview with the Central European and Russia Fund in the next issue of *The Scott Letter*.

Libera's Closed-End Country Fund Report

"Central Europe is taking advantage of its new membership in the European Union with inflows of investment capital and rising growth. Poland will grow by more than 6% in 2004 and next year we expect the entire region to grow by four to five percent. We continue to project a two-to-one growth advantage for central Europe over Western Europe for the next decade, and we recommend significant portfolio exposure here. On the other hand, we are concerned with the move toward political authoritarianism in Russia and recommend selling MSDW Europe Fund."

James Libera publishes The Closed-End Country Fund Report. The above is quoted from the September/October, 2004 issue. Mr. Libera is President of Washington International Advisors and is editor-in-chief and publisher of the semimonthly newsletter. He can be reached at his Washington, D.C. office at (202) 783-7051 or e-mail jlibera@earthlink.net.

Global Funds Buoy Bonds and Snub Shares

Global funds poured more money into bonds in October than in any other month this year while withdrawing investments from equities, new data show.

Asset managers in charge of \$3,000bn. in investments bought a net \$996m of bonds in October but sold a net \$135 m of stocks, according to EmergingPortfolio.com, the US data provider.

Bond prices have rallied this year in spite of a rise in US interest rates - a rare phenomenon in fixed income markets. Many investors attribute the freak market to a 60 percent rise in oil prices since January 1, which is expected to limit global growth and ease pressure on the US Federal Reserve to raise interest rates further.

"High oil prices, weak earnings results and expectations of slowing growth lures investors out of equities and into bond funds in October," said Brad Durham, managing director at EmergingPortfolio.com

Source: The Financial Times.

The Lure of Yield: A New View of Closed-End Funds by Don Cassidy, Senior Research Analyst, Lipper Inc.

Retail investors exhibit a persistent tendency to gravitate toward higher-yield funds. This is documented by relative premium/discount behavior in closed-end funds (CEFs) across time between various types of funds. This finding challenges the traditional view of the "causes" of premiums and discounts among CEFs.

It also raises issues regarding the traditionally assumed rationality of investor behaviors. Occasional brief periods in which lower-yielding and lower risk funds trade at smaller discounts tend to occur during and shortly following episodes of stress in the higher yield market and in the bond market generally.

It appears that investors seek current yield somewhat without regard to associated risks, and that they have short memories regarding the causes of past losses.

Closed-End Fund and Stock Reports Cohen & Steers Total Return Realty Fund, Inc. Investment Review

“For the second quarter, Cohen & Steers Total Return Realty Fund (RFI-NYSE) had a total return, based on income and change in net asset value, of -6.3%. This compares to the NAREIT Equity REIT Index’s total return of 5.8%. For the six months ended June 30, 2004, the fund’s total return was 3.9%, compared to NAREIT’s 5.5%

“The second quarter of 2004 brought further evidence of a strengthening U.S. economic recovery. The release of the March report on U.S. non-farm payrolls in early April forced many of the pessimistic, economic naysayers to acknowledge that the recovery was, in fact, real.

“The second quarter began with a dramatic decline in REIT prices, followed by a dramatic rebound; (This resulted in) a decisive rotation in leadership within the REIT market. The March jobs’ report took the capital markets by surprise on April 2 and sent the bond market reeling, resulting in the worst quarter for the bond market since the first quarter of 1994. REITs dropped 18% from their highs at the end of March, before bottoming on May 10. We characterized this decline as technical in nature, driven by the valuation concerns of some investors, and one that we believed presented an attractive investment opportunity. In our view, the very jobs report that set off the decline in share prices was likely to continue to improve real estate fundamentals and greater cash flow for REITs.

“We are pleased to report that since then the REITs have rebounded significantly, recording a 14% total return from May 10 through the end of June. REITs were one of the best asset classes over this time period.

“The more interesting story in the second quarter was a rotation of leadership within the REIT market. The defensive issues, which had led the REIT group since 2001, have ceded their market leadership to the more cyclically inclined companies that we believe will respond to the economic recovery most quickly and most dramatically. The best performing sectors were apartment and hotel, which generated total returns of +2.2% and -2.6% respectively. Conversely, the worst performing sectors during the quarter were health care (-13.4% total return) and regional malls (-11.5%).

Global Investment Outlook

“In the wake of the REIT stock price decline in the second quarter, many investors have asked us whether REITs can continue to perform well in what many are concerned (overly so in our view) may be a period of rising interest rates.

“Our view has always been and continues to be that real estate fundamentals are the primary drivers of REIT returns over the long run...We have found that over the long term REIT share price behavior

has not been statistically related in any material way to the performance of bonds or interest rates...Importantly, we also found that in the 12 months following periods of rising interest rates... REIT performance historically has been consistently very strong.

“However, we believe that if interest rates are rising due to a stronger economy and attendant higher inflationary expectations (which in the past have been favorable for real estate fundamentals), this could serve to offset at least some of the impact that higher interest rates would otherwise have on capitalization rates.

“Higher interest rates can also have some beneficial effects on REITs. The higher inflationary expectations, which are partially driving higher interest rates, push up the price of building costs, especially inputs like steel, concrete, lumber, labor and construction period interest. Thus, the overall replacement cost of real estate escalates, which flows through eventually in the form of higher market rents...

“Our conclusion is that, although changes in interest rates have a varied impact on REITs, the positive and negative impacts have historically tended to offset one another, such that the overall impact on REIT returns has not generally been material; thus, the historical lack of correlation. What remains material are the supply and demand for real estate and how it impacts building occupancies and rents.

“The most important thing to recognize about the prospects for REIT returns, in our view, is that the job growth occurred in March of this year was followed up with strong job growth reports for both April and May. With this key economic driver in place, we believe the prospects for higher building occupancies and rents, and thus for higher cash flows for REITs, are excellent.

“At this point...it is safe to say that whatever impact investors believe rising interest rates may have on REITs has been well digested by the stock market. The net effect has been to bring REIT valuations in line with historical averages. In our view, the favorable prospects for accelerating cash flow growth over the next couple of years in combination with these valuations give us confidence REITs can continue to generate attractive total returns.

“The average annual total returns for RFI for the periods ended June 30, 2004 were One Year, 22.16%, Five Years, 14.40%, Ten Years, 12.01% and since inception (9/27/93), 11.53%”.

For the complete report and other investment information about Cohen & Steers, go to www.cohenandsteers.com. Telephone 1-800-330-7348.

(This report was condensed from the Investment Letter to shareholders of Cohen and Steers Total Return Realty Fund, July 26, 2004)

Closed-End Fund Advisors uses REITs as well as real estate funds to diversify our portfolios into different asset classes. RFI is the largest holding of the firm.

TCW Convertible Securities Fund

TCW Convertible Securities Fund (CVT-NYSE), was founded in 1987 by The Trust Company of The West in Los Angeles. It is a diversified, closed-end management company with net assets of approximately \$270 Million. The Fund seeks income and growth by investing at least 65% of its assets in convertible securities over a wide spectrum of industries. The remainder may be invested in nonconvertible and in investment grade debt issues and equity securities. The Fund may engage in hedging transactions.

CVT, as of 6/30/2004, held 98.49% of its assets in convertible securities, 1.35% in stocks and the balance in cash. CVT held 92.70% of its assets in the U.S., 5.10% in Luxembourg, 2.00% in The Netherlands and 0.20% in Panama. The top sectors were in Media, 10.5%, Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equities, 8.4%, Insurance, 8%, Electric Utilities, 7.2% and Health Care Equipment & Supplies.

In response to the low interest rate environment, the fund has modified its portfolio holdings in order to enhance income. The fund currently has an average rating of BB+, with over 53% of its securities being investment grade, down slightly from 2003. Secondly, the fund's holdings in convertible preferred have risen to approximately 48%. As of June 30, 2004, the annualized current yield of the Fund is 3.31%; the yield to maturity on its convertible bonds is over 4.5%. The Fund is broadly diversified with 79 holdings in over 26 industries.

CVT started a Share Repurchase Plan in 2000. In that year, it repurchased 624,700 shares, and in 2003, it repurchased an additional 1,476,000 shares. In the first quarter of 2004, The Fund repurchased 899,300 shares at an average price of \$0.22 per share at an average discount of 10.56% from NAV.

At the annual shareholders meeting on July 13, 2004, a proposal to open-end the fund was soundly defeated by shareholders. We applaud this, commending shareholders to keep the Fund as a closed-end, in spite of the wide discount. We would rather the Fund maintain its share repurchase program and other activities to narrow the discount. For more information on CVT, contact: 1-888-301-0513.

Templeton Global Income Fund - Annual Report

Templeton Global Income Fund (GIM-NYSE) seeks high current income, with a secondary goal of capital appreciation. Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its assets in income-producing securities, including debt securities of U.S. and foreign issues, including the emerging markets. The Fund holds 96% in government bonds and 4.0% in short-term investments and other assets.

For the year under review, Templeton Global Income Fund delivered cumulative total returns (as of 8/31/04) of 14.69% based on market price and 14.20% based on net asset value. In comparison, the J.P. Morgan (JPM) Government Bond Index (GBI) Global posted cumulative total returns of 4.28% in local currency terms and 11.41% in U.S. dollar terms for the same period.

As of August 31, 2004 the largest bond holdings were in South Korea, 12.4%, Sweden, 9.2%, Thailand, 6.0%, New Zealand, 6.0% and Australia, 9%.

For the complete report or more information about Franklin Templeton Investments, call 1-800-342-5236 or visit www.franklintempleton.com.

Lucent Technologies Earnings Tripled

Driven by strong sales of wireless equipment, Lucent Technologies Inc.'s fiscal fourth quarter earnings more than tripled as the company turned in its first profitable year since 2000.

Lucent had net income of \$348 million, or seven cents a share, for the quarter ended September 30. That was three times year-earlier profit of \$99 million, or two cents a share. Revenue surged 19% to \$2.4 billion from \$2.0 billion.

Lucent, among the equipment makers hardest hit by the telecom bust of recent years, said full year net income was \$1.4 billion, or 25 cents, compared with a year-earlier net loss of \$770 million or 29 cents. Revenue rose 7% to \$9.0 billion from \$8.5 billion. "This was a pivotal year for us financially," said Patricia Russo, Lucent's chairman and chief executive.

The results suggest Lucent, based in Murray Hill, N.J., has turned a corner. It marked the fifth consecutive quarterly profit after three years of quarterly losses, during which Lucent slashed its work force to 31,000 from more than 157,000 in 2000.

Lucent's biggest growth rate has been in wireless, selling equipment to phone companies so that they can upgrade their networks to carry increasing amounts of wireless voice, data and video traffic. Lucent's stock closed at \$3.55 on October 29. The stock is one of the few individual companies used for select portfolios managed by Closed-End Fund Advisors.

"It has never been easier to learn what's going on in the world. Information pours in 24 hours a day, every day, from a range of sources: Nearly 70,000 U.S. newspapers, magazines, newsletters and journals, 20,000 TV and radio stations plus hundreds of foreign-based publications and thousands of web sites. From Al - Jazeera to the Ypsilanti Courier, from American Cowboy to Wood Digest...every viewpoint, every interest." And yet it has never been tougher to sort out that information.

(Quoted from The Kiplinger Letter, published weekly by The Kiplinger Washington Editors, 1729 H St., NW, Washington DC. 20006-3938. The Letter gives "Forecasts For Management Decision Making" and helpful tips about personal finance. \$84/year. 1-800-544-0155.

"Personal excellence can be achieved by a visionary goal, through planning, dedicated execution and total follow through. "

*Gerald R. Ford
U.S. President*

The editors of *The Scott Letter Online* are interested in any feedback from our readers regarding how we may improve this publication. Comments concerning topics in which you agree or disagree are also of interest to us. Your opinions are valuable and will help us to be able to serve you better. Please send your questions or comments to our email address or by regular mail prior to the next edition of *The Scott Letter Online*. We do read your letters, but we cannot guarantee they will be published in the Scott Letter.

The Scott Letter Online is currently available on our website [www.CEFadvisors.com], Site-By-Site's closed-end fund website [www.site-by-site.com/usa/cef/cef.htm], and Capital Link's closed-end fund forum [www.closedendfundforum.com].

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