

Color-Coded Money May Be Ahead

THE treasury is reported to be considering replacing "greenbacks" with orange, brown, red or blue currency.

The contemplated color-coding is to head off use of "advanced color copiers" by counterfeiters who want to make money without working for it. It is reported that multicolor geometric patterns, metal-coated plastic threads, and three dimensional holograms also are being considered for use.

Treasury officials are expected to make a decision later this year as to whether to add new color-coding to our financial operations. It might not make our money buy any more but it could become easier to tell a \$5 bill from a \$50, now that inflation has made the latter more common. This presumes different colors would be used to denote different amounts.

Color-coding is not a new device. In the Old Testament, Jacob used color-coding to sort out the better cattle when he was dividing the herd with his father-in-law. Coun-

tries have been color-coded with their national emblems almost throughout history.

Color-coding occurs in nature to make it easier for males and females to recognize one another, prey or enemies. Many are brightly arrayed but even drably colored species manage to find mates. People are about the same way in this respect.

Not long after automobiles started creating traffic problems on city streets and country roads traffic regulations were introduced and color-coded.

Most drivers are aware that green means GO, red means STOP, and amber or yellow mean whatever a driver thinks they mean. Some drivers can see a green light before it comes on but don't seem able to see a red light at all.

Offices and factories use such color-coded devices as file folders and aisle markers for safety, convenience and beauty. The City of The Village recently changed its street signs to white to make them distin-

guishable from colors used by adjoining Oklahoma City and Nichols Hills.

Security problems in our nation's capitol have resulted in color-coding of people in the halls of Congress. Colored identification badges are draped on metal chains around the necks of authorized personnel.

Congressional aides, elevator operators and cafeteria workers wear red tags, journalists wear green tags (not yellow), and blue cards are given to lobbyists. Congressmen apparently enter by recognition, regardless of color or politics.

Political candidates sometimes are color-coded, too. As in the current presidential campaign. Newspaper reports have included such statements from blacks as "I'm going to vote for Jesse because he's black." Many voters may support other candidates because Jesse is not white.

And then there is color in your newspaper, magazines, and on TV. Interpret that as you see fit.