



Economy Watch:

President Bush: "The Program Is Designed To Preserve Free Enterprise, Not Replace Free Enterprise"

President Bush Meets With His Cabinet To Discuss Financial Rescue Plan, Calling It Limited, Well Thought Out and Necessary

"We Analyzed The Situation Very Carefully"

President George W. Bush: "[T]he American people must understand that this carefully structured plan is aimed at helping you." "If I'd have thought this situation would have been contained only to Wall Street, we'd have had a different response. But in our judgment, had we not acted decisively at the time we did, the credit crunch, the inability for banks in your communities to loan to your businesses would have affected the working people and the small businesses of America." (President George W. Bush, Remarks Before Cabinet Meeting, The White House, 10/15/08)

President Bush: "[I]t's very important for the American people to know that the program is designed to preserve free enterprise, not replace free enterprise." "These are extraordinary measures, no question about it. But they're well thought out, they are necessary, and I'm confident in the long run this economy will come back."

- "Decisions we took to enhance liquidity and make sure our financial instruments are strong is a temporary decision." "[T]he equity purchases in the banks is designed so that these shares will eventually be sold back to the [banks]."
- "[T]he program is limited." "[T]he government will buy only a certain number of shares in individual banks. These banks will be privately controlled. The liquidity measures being taken are structured such that the government will be a passive investor. In other words, there won't be government officials sitting on the board of private companies."

"The Best Way To Get The Maximum Bang For The Taxpayers' Buck Here Was To Invest In Shares Of Banks"

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson: "I'm focused on one thing and one thing only, which is stabilizing the financial system, restoring confidence in the financial system." "That will do more for the economy than any single thing. You get bank lending going again, supporting businesses, supporting jobs, supporting consumers; that's what we need to do." (CBS's "Early Show," 10/15/08)

- "[A]s the facts have changed, and as the situation became more serious there is no doubt that the best way to get the maximum bang for the taxpayers' buck here was to invest in shares of banks." "[O]ur major institutions are safe and sound, and a big part of this plan is about strengthening those institutions. ... [T]here has never been anyone who has lost a penny in an insured bank deposit going back over the 75-year period in which we've had FDIC insurance." (ABC's "Good Morning America," 10/15/08)