

# In for one wild economic ride

## Taxpayers should expect results, but not soon

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The government's \$700 billion solution will not provide instant relief from economic turmoil for consumers, but U.S. taxpayers could ultimately benefit from the Wall Street rescue.

In fact, the government's plan could be profitable.

"There's a possibility that there's enough hidden value that if the government bailout plan contains a systematic vehicle to hold and trade this paper as time goes on, then it could be less of an impact to the taxpayers — or it could be a profit opportunity," said Bruce Jones, managing director at ClearRidge Capital in Tulsa.

Accounting rules have forced corporations to write down the value of many of their assets based on their current prices, and those prices have been in a free fall as credit markets soured.

The government could overpay and end up ahead by holding the assets until market calm is restored, Jones said.

Vince Orza, dean of the Meinders School of Business at Oklahoma City University, said, "There's no reason to think anybody in Congress knows the first thing about this," Orza said. "These are not people who have any great economic genius. These are just elected officials. In many cases they know as little or less about it than the average guy reading the paper everyday."

### Relief necessary

Warnings raising the specter of the Great Depression are overblown, but the government needs to shore up shaky finan-



nomics professor, said many consumers

don't recognize the bailout benefits and are overwhelmed by the economic and market confusion and the amount of money the government is considering investing. Some wonder why the money isn't going to individuals who lost homes or jobs due to the swings.

"It's couched so much as a bailout of Wall Street without recognizing the role of