

Inflation Unemployment And Monetary Policy New Research

Impact of monetary policy on the economy: a regional Fed perspective on inflation, unemployment, and QE3 : hearing before the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology of the Committee on Financial Services, U.S. House of Representatives, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, first session, July 26, 2011.

An accessible and engaging introduction to the big picture of UK and international economics Are you studying macroeconomics, but don't know inflation from stagflation? Have no fear! This easy-to-understand guide, written specifically for the UK market, is packed with real-world examples and cases that easily illustrate the key concepts you'll need to know to fully grasp macroeconomics and ace your exams. Taking a fun, step-by-step approach to the topic, this great guide provides an engaging introduction to macroeconomics and then delves into more specific topics, such as business cycles, inflation, unemployment, domestic output, monetary policy, and much more. When it comes to the interaction of politics, business decisions, consumer actions, and monetary policy, the study of economics is international in scope. That means you must understand not just the economies of nations, but also the interrelatedness of national economies throughout the world. This easy, accessible guide will help you: Find out how many different financial, business, consumer, and political factors interact to create the overall economic reality of nations Understand business cycles, economic growth, and fiscal and monetary policies Study the relationships of various economic indicators, such as inflation, unemployment, and domestic output Gain a solid understanding of macroeconomics by building on microeconomic principles and using real-world examples If you're struggling with your economics course or you need to get up to speed on the topic of macroeconomics quickly, *Macroeconomics For Dummies* has you covered!

The world economy has undergone a fundamental transformation in recent decades and theoretical structures inherited from the 1930s through the 1950s, while retaining large elements of truth, are inadequate to deal with current problems. Benjamin Higgins feels that for a society such as the United States a fiscal policy needs to be adopted that can deal simultaneously with existing unemployment and inflation. He suggests three possible governmental policies: stimulating a high rate of long-run growth, by use of reward innovations and by maintaining the highest possible level of scientific and technical activity; isolating regions that are generators of inflation and others that are pools for unemployment; and establishing a system of direct controls similar to those used in wartime. Higgins describes the transformation of the cogent prewar business cycle, with its alternations of inflation or unemployment, then a transitional period of underemployment equilibrium and secular stagnation, and finally, the strange new world of today, one with economic fluctuations in the form of shifting trade-off curves and loops. He then applies his new paradigm to current problems, showing why they cannot be managed through macroeconomic monetary and fiscal policy. Higgins offers case studies of efforts to fight inflation and unemployment, and to reduce regional gaps, to show their strengths and weaknesses. It can be said that unemployment always results from too many people chasing too few jobs, and inflation is always caused by too much money chasing too few goods and services. Beyond such banal generalizations, Higgins maintains there is no single cause for either unemployment or inflation, and thus no single cure can be prescribed for either, let alone for both at once. Nor is it to be expected that the appropriate cure will prove to be the same in all countries at all times. He suggests that an optimal blend of monetary and fiscal policy that will produce the "minimum discomfort" is a good start. *Employment Without Inflation* will be of direct policy interest to economists, sociologists, and national planners.

What monetary policy framework, if adopted by the Federal Reserve, would have avoided the Great Inflation of the 1960s and 1970s? The authors use counterfactual simulations of an estimated model of the U.S. economy to evaluate alternative monetary policy strategies. The authors document that policymakers at the time both had an overly optimistic view of the natural rate of unemployment and put a high priority on achieving full employment. They show that in the presence of realistic informational imperfections and with an emphasis on stabilizing economic activity, an optimal control approach would have failed to keep inflation expectations well anchored, resulting in highly volatile inflation during the 1970s. Charts and tables. Inflation targeting (IT) has become the sacred cow of central banking. But its suitability to developing nations remains contested. The contributors to this volume perform the valuable service of sketching out plausible, more development-friendly alternatives. They are to be commended in particular for avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach and paying close attention to the needs of specific countries. Their proposals range from relatively minor tinkering in IT to comprehensive overhaul. A common theme is the central role of the real exchange rate, which the central banks ignore at their economies peril. Dani Rodrik, Harvard University, US As the world economy is devastated by a virulent financial crisis and jobs are lost in scores, central bankers are increasingly questioned as to why they have failed to sustain stability and growth even though they told us all along that conquering inflation would be necessary and sufficient to do so while hoping to get a pat on the back for achieving a degree of price stability unprecedented in recent times. This book provides a lot of food for thought on why. It is a powerful critique of the orthodox obsession with inflation in neglect of the two deep-seated problems of the unbridled market economy financial instability and unemployment. It is a must for all policy makers, notably in the developing world, and for the mainstream. Yilmaz Akyuz, formerly of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva, Switzerland This collective volume makes a compelling case for balancing the developmental and stabilization functions of central banks. In particular, the authors emphasize that, as practiced in many successful developing countries, competitive real exchange rates can be good for growth and employment generation, and should thus be a specific focus of central bank actions. The book is a must read for those looking for a more balanced framework for central bank policies. José Antonio Ocampo, Columbia University, US and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs and Finance Minister of Colombia This book, written by an international team of economists, develops concrete, country specific alternatives to inflation targeting, the dominant policy framework of central bank policy that focuses on keeping inflation in the low single digits to the virtual exclusion of other key goals such as employment creation, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The book includes thematic chapters, including analyses of class attitudes toward inflation and unemployment and the gender impacts of restrictive monetary policy. Other chapters propose improved monetary frameworks for Argentina, Brazil, India, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, and Vietnam. Policy frameworks that are explored include employment targeting, and targeting a stable and competitive real exchange rate. The authors also show that to reach a larger number of targets, including higher employment and stable inflation, central banks must use a larger number of instruments, including capital management techniques. This volume offers concrete, socially valuable alternatives that economists, policy

makers, students and interested laypeople should consider before adopting one size fits all, often inadequate, policies that have become a virtual policy making fad.

This book pulls together papers presented at a conference in honour of the 1981 Nobel Prize Winner for Economic Science, the late James Tobin. Among the contributors are Olivier Blanchard, Edmund Phelps, Charles Goodhart and Marco Buti. One of the main aims of the conference was to discuss what potential role monetary policy has on economic activity and unemployment reduction in three key currency zones - the United States, European Union and Japan.

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We explore two issues triggered by the crisis. First, in most advanced countries, output remains far below the pre-recession trend, suggesting hysteresis. Second, while inflation has decreased, it has decreased less than anticipated, suggesting a breakdown of the relation between inflation and activity. To examine the first, we look at 122 recessions over the past 50 years in 23 countries. We find that a high proportion of them have been followed by lower output or even lower growth. To examine the second, we estimate a Phillips curve relation over the past 50 years for 20 countries. We find that the effect of unemployment on inflation, for given expected inflation, decreased until the early 1990s, but has remained roughly stable since then. We draw implications of our findings for monetary policy.

Provides an introduction to economic systems and economic goals, and then addresses major macroeconomic issues including GDP, economic growth, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, fiscal policy, national debt, money, the Federal Reserve System, monetary policy and financial crises.

This book studies the strategic policy interactions in a monetary union. The leading protagonists are the European Central Bank and national governments. The target of the ECB is low inflation in Europe. The targets of a national government are low unemployment and a low structural deficit. There are demand shocks, supply shocks, and mixed shocks. There are country-specific shocks and common shocks. This book develops a series of basic, intermediate, and more advanced models. Here the focus is on the Nash equilibrium. The key questions are: Given a shock, can policy interactions reduce the existing loss? And to what extent can they do so? Another topical issue is policy cooperation. To illustrate all of this there are a lot of numerical examples. The present book is part of a larger research project on European Monetary Union, see the references given at the back of the book. Some parts of this project were presented at the World Congress of the International Economic Association, at the International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis, at the International Institute of Public Finance, and at the International Atlantic Economic Conference. Other parts were presented at the Macro Study Group of the German Economic Association, at the Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association, at the Göttingen Workshop on International Economics, at the Halle Workshop on Monetary Economics, at the Research Seminar on Macroeconomics in Freiburg, at the Research Seminar on Economics in Kassel, and at the Passau Workshop on International Economics.

Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject Economics - Economic Cycle and Growth, grade: 1,0, University of applied sciences Frankfurt a. M., course: Inflation and the Phillips Curve, 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In this paper the author will discuss the relation of inflation and the Phillips curve. First, the concept and the different forms of inflation and their economical reasons will be explained. Afterwards the three prevalent models of the Phillips curve in literature are introduced and explained. The author will look into the theory of the NRU and NAIRU and how they relate to the concept of the Phillips curve. In the last part of the paper, the applicability and validity of the Phillips curve for Germany is investigated more closely and the characteristics of the Phillips curve for Germany will be described. The Phillips curve originates of an empirical study of Arthur W. Phillips in 1958. There he describes the existence of a negative relationship between the rate of unemployment and the nominal wage growth in the UK between the years 1861-1957. The curve shows, that the higher the rate of unemployment, the lower the rate of wage inflation. His work represented a milestone in the development of macroeconomics. Especially in the sixties and seventies, politicians in the USA and Europe thought they can interpret the relation of inflation and unemployment as a menu card of fiscal and monetary policy. A well-known quote by Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor of Germany in the 1970s, supports this thinking, when he said that an inflation rate of five percent is better than a five percent rate of unemployment. In the following years, a lot of different economist (Keynes, Samuelson, Friedman, Phelps, Lipsey et al.) modified the original curve and supported it with their customized theories. In this paper the author will discuss the relation of inflation and the Phillips curve. First, the concept and the different forms of inflation and their economical reasons will be explained. Afterwards the three prevalent models of the Phillips curve in literature are introduced and explained. The author will look into the theory of the NRU and NAIRU and how they relate to the concept of the Phillips curve. In the last part of the paper, the applicability and validity of the Phillips curve for Germany is investigated more closely and the characteristics of the Phillips curve for Germany will be described.

Controlling inflation is among the most important objectives of economic policy. By maintaining price stability, policy makers are able to reduce uncertainty, improve price-monitoring mechanisms, and facilitate more efficient planning and allocation of resources, thereby raising productivity. This volume focuses on understanding the causes of the Great Inflation of the 1970s and '80s, which saw rising inflation in many nations, and which propelled interest rates across the developing world into the double digits. In the decades since, the immediate cause of the period's rise in inflation has been the subject of considerable debate. Among the areas of contention are the role of monetary policy in driving inflation and the implications this had both for policy design and for evaluating the performance of those who set the policy. Here, contributors map monetary policy from the 1960s to the present, shedding light on the ways in which the lessons of the Great Inflation were absorbed and applied to today's global and increasingly complex economic environment.

"Since the early 1980s, the United States economy has changed in some important ways: Inflation now rises considerably less when unemployment falls and the volatility of output and inflation have fallen sharply. This paper examines whether changes in monetary policy can account for these phenomena. The results suggest that changes in the parameters and shock volatility of monetary policy reaction functions can account for most or all of the change in the inflation-unemployment relationship. As in other work, monetary-policy changes can explain only a small portion of the output growth volatility decline. However, changes in policy can explain a large proportion of the reduction in the volatility of the output gap. In addition, a broader concept of monetary-policy changes--one that includes improvements in the central bank's ability to measure potential output--enhances the ability of monetary policy to account for the changes in the economy"--Abstract.

Using data on long-term interest rates for 17 industrial countries, this paper develops some simple measures of monetary policy credibility and then tests if such measures improve the out-of-sample forecasts of conventional models of the inflation-unemployment process. The results provide some evidence in favor of the Lucas critique by showing that the short-run unemployment-inflation trade-off tends to improve in countries that are successful in providing low and stable inflation.

This timely volume presents the latest thinking on the monetary policy rules and seeks to determine just what types of rules and policy guidelines function best. A unique cooperative research effort that allowed contributors to evaluate different policy rules using their own specific approaches, this collection presents their striking findings on the potential response of interest rates to an array of variables, including alterations in the rates of inflation, unemployment, and exchange. Monetary Policy Rules illustrates that simple policy rules are more robust and more efficient

than complex rules with multiple variables. A state-of-the-art appraisal of the fundamental issues facing the Federal Reserve Board and other central banks, *Monetary Policy Rules* is essential reading for economic analysts and policymakers alike.

This is an applications-oriented text that demystifies the linkages between monetary and fiscal policies and key macroeconomic variables such as income, unemployment, inflation and interest rates. Specially written "newspaper" articles simulate current macroeconomic news on asset-price bubbles, exchange rates, hyperinflation and more. Exercises and diagrams, and a global perspective – incorporating both developed and emerging economies - make this a broadly useful, real-world oriented text on a complex and shifting subject.

Inflation, Unemployment, and Monetary Policy MIT Press

The connection between price inflation and real economic activity has been a focus of macroeconomic research -- and debate -- for much of the past century. Although this connection is crucial to our understanding of what monetary policy can and cannot accomplish, opinions about its basic properties have swung widely over the years. Today, virtually everyone studying monetary policy acknowledges that, contrary to what many modern macroeconomic models suggest, central bank actions often affect both inflation and measures of real economic activity, such as output, unemployment, and incomes. But the nature and magnitude of these effects are not yet understood. In this volume, Robert M. Solow and John B. Taylor present their views on the dilemmas facing U.S. monetary policymakers. The discussants are Benjamin M. Friedman, James K. Galbraith, N. Gregory Mankiw, and William Poole. The aim of this lively exchange of views is to make both an intellectual contribution to macroeconomics and a practical contribution to the solution of a public policy question of central importance.

Abstract: Wage setters take into account the future consequences of their current wage choices in the presence of downward nominal wage rigidities. Several interesting implications arise. First, a closed-form solution for a long-run Phillips curve relates average unemployment to average wage inflation; the curve is virtually vertical for high inflation rates but becomes flatter as inflation declines. Second, macroeconomic volatility shifts the Phillips curve outward, implying that stabilization policies can play an important role in shaping the trade-off. Third, nominal wages tend to be endogenously rigid also upward, at low inflation. Fourth, when inflation decreases, volatility of unemployment increases whereas the volatility of inflation decreases: this implies a long-run trade-off also between the volatility of unemployment and that of wage inflation

Labor market performance, competition, and inflation; Unemployment, unsatisfied demand for labor, and compensation growth, 1956-80; Inflation, flexible exchange rates and the natural - of unemployment; Feedback between monetary policy, labor market activity, and wage inflation, 1955-78.

Recent empirical contributions to the monetary policy literature have argued that the short-run Phillips curve in several developed countries is moderately convex, such that at any given point on the curve, the inflation increase associated with an incremental decline in the unemployment rate exceeds the inflation decline associated with an equal rise in the unemployment rate. The principal difference between the linear and convex Phillips curves is that, under convexity, the short-run tradeoff facing policymakers is a function of the state of the economy: a one percentage point reduction in the unemployment rate leads to a smaller increase in inflation at high rates of unemployment than at low rates of unemployment. As a result, the nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment-the unemployment rate consistent with maintaining a stable average inflation rate over time-is not the same in a stochastic setting as it is in a deterministic setting. This reflects the fact that, in a stochastic economy with a convex Phillips curve, stable average inflation requires larger increases in unemployment when inflation is high than corresponding absolute declines in unemployment when inflation is low. Thus, the nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment in a stochastic setting is greater than its deterministic counterpart for any shock distribution. In contrast, under the linear model the nonaccelerating inflation rates of unemployment with and without shocks coincide. In order to emphasize this distinction we shall be referring to the nonaccelerating inflation rate in a stochastic setting as the NAIRU, while reserving the term deterministic NAIRU, or DNAIRU, for the nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment in the absence of shocks. Our NAIRU is thus consistent with the original Friedman (1968) definition of the natural rate of unemployment as the average unemployment rate in a stochastic setting.

Inflation-forecast targeting is state of the art for monetary policy. This book explores first principles, including managing short-term policy trade-offs. The book also outlines efficient operational procedures and reviews the experiences of Canada, the Czech Republic, and India. The analysis highlights the need for assertive policies and maximum transparency.

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The thirty-fourth volume of the NBER Macroeconomics Annual features theoretical and empirical studies of issues in contemporary macroeconomics and a keynote address by James Stock, a member of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers from 2013 to 2014. Chong-en Bai, Chang-Tai Hsieh, and Zheng Song examine the "special deals" provided by Chinese local governments to favored private firms and their effects on economic growth. Matias Covarrubias, Germán Gutiérrez, and Thomas Philippon study the evolution of profits, investment, and market shares in US industries over the past forty years and find evidence of inefficient concentration and barriers to entry since 2000. David Debortoli, Jordi Galí, and Luca Gambetti assess whether recent economic performance was affected by a binding zero lower bound constraint on the interest rate. Michael McLeay and Silvana Tenreyro explain why it is difficult to empirically identify the Phillips curve (a key element of the policy framework used by central banks) using aggregate data. The authors suggest using regional variation in unemployment and inflation to estimate the relationship between these variables. Margherita Borella, Mariacristina De Nardi, and Fang Yang examine the effects of shorter life expectancies, higher medical expenses, and lower wages for white, non-college-educated Americans born in the 1960s on labor supply and retirement savings. Nir Jaimovich, Sergio Rebelo, Arlene Wong, and Miao Ben Zhang investigate the role that increases in the quality of the goods consumed ("trading up") played in the rise of the skill premium that occurred in the last four decades.

The classic introduction to the New Keynesian economic model This revised second edition of *Monetary Policy, Inflation, and the Business Cycle* provides a rigorous graduate-level introduction to the New Keynesian framework and its applications to monetary policy. The New Keynesian framework is the workhorse for the analysis of monetary policy and its implications for inflation, economic fluctuations, and welfare. A backbone of the new generation of medium-scale models under development at major central banks and international policy institutions, the

framework provides the theoretical underpinnings for the price stability-oriented strategies adopted by most central banks in the industrialized world. Using a canonical version of the New Keynesian model as a reference, Jordi Galí explores various issues pertaining to monetary policy's design, including optimal monetary policy and the desirability of simple policy rules. He analyzes several extensions of the baseline model, allowing for cost-push shocks, nominal wage rigidities, and open economy factors. In each case, the effects on monetary policy are addressed, with emphasis on the desirability of inflation-targeting policies. New material includes the zero lower bound on nominal interest rates and an analysis of unemployment's significance for monetary policy. The most up-to-date introduction to the New Keynesian framework available A single benchmark model used throughout New materials and exercises included An ideal resource for graduate students, researchers, and market analysts

Originally published in 1985 and contributed to by internationally renowned economists, this volume discusses theoretical issues and country-specific experiences to review the underlying causes of the stagflation of the 1970s and early 1980s, as well as summarizing the kinds of macro-policies that were adopted to deal with the stagflation.

The fast and easy way to make macroeconomics manageable Macroeconomics is kind of a big deal. Without it, we wouldn't have the ability to study the economy as a whole—which is something that affects almost every aspect of your life, whether you realize it or not. From your employment status to how much you earn and pay in taxes, macroeconomics really matters. Breaking down this complicated and fascinating topic into manageable pieces, Macroeconomics For Dummies gives you fast and easy access to a subject that has a tendency to stump the masses. With the help of this plain-English guide, you'll quickly find out how to gather data about economies to inform hypotheses on everything from the impact of cutting government spending to the underlying causes of recessions and high inflation. Analyze business cycles for overall economic health Study economic indicators such as unemployment Understand financial trends on the international market Score higher in your macroeconomics class Filled with step-by-step instruction and enlightening real-world examples, this is the only book you need to slay the beast and make macroeconomics your minion!

This book studies unemployment and inflation in economic crises, first considering the scenario of a demand shock in Europe. In that case, monetary and fiscal interaction would cause widespread oscillations in European unemployment and European inflation. And what is more, there would be equally far-reaching fluctuations in the European money supply and European government purchases. These monetary and fiscal interactions would have no effects on the American economy. Second, it examines the scenario of a supply shock in Europe, in which monetary and fiscal interactions would have no effects on European unemployment or European inflation; there would also be an explosion of European government purchases and an implosion of the European money supply. Monetary and fiscal interactions would produce uniform oscillations in American unemployment and American inflation. Lastly, we would also see an implosion of both the American money supply and American government purchases.

This book studies the coexistence of inflation and unemployment in a monetary union. The focus is on how to reduce the associated loss. The primary target of the European central bank is low inflation in Europe. The primary target of the German government is low unemployment in Germany. And the primary target of the French government is low unemployment in France. The European central bank has a quadratic loss function. The same applies to the German government and the French government. The key questions are: To what extent can the sequential process of monetary and fiscal decisions reduce the loss caused by inflation and unemployment? Is monetary and fiscal cooperation superior to the sequential process of monetary and fiscal decisions? The present book is part of a larger research project on European Monetary Union, see the references given at the back of the book. Some parts of this project were presented at the World Congress of the International Economic Association, at the International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis, at the International Institute of Public Finance, and at the International Atlantic Economic Conference. Other parts were presented at the Macro Study Group of the German Economic Association, at the Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association, at the Göttingen Workshop on International Economics, at the Halle Workshop on Monetary Economics, at the Research Seminar on Macroeconomics in Freiburg, at the Research Seminar on Economics in Kassel, and at the Passau Workshop on International Economics.

Having the high unemployment in Germany in mind, this book discusses how macroeconomic theory has evolved over the past forty years. It shows that in recent years a convergence has taken place, with modern models embodying a Keynesian transmission mechanism, monetarist policy implication, and modeling techniques inspired by new classical economics and real business cycle theory. It also probes in which direction models may be extended from here. Empirically, the book uses different econometric techniques to investigate the relevance and implications of different macroeconomic theories for German data. A key question this book investigates is the role of demand and supply side conditions for the increase in the German unemployment rate. On a policy level, the book relates the implications of the different theories to the ongoing debate on the appropriate roles of demand and supply side policies for curing the German unemployment problem.

Intellectual time lags exist in every field of science. So it is that even today one often hears the same old “common knowledge” nonsense and simplistic analysis from the early post-Keynesian era when students learned about some of the monetary and fiscal policies applicable to the U.K. and its institutions (Keynes) on the premise that they are also applicable to the U.S. Many are not. The result has all too often been inflation or massive unemployment that continues even though it could be quickly ended without fiscal changes or new laws. This is a re-presentation of Professor Lindauer's early ground-breaking work from the 1960s. It explains why not all Keynesian and neo-classical theory and monetary and fiscal policies are applicable to the unique structure and institutions of the United States and how the current United States' malaise can be quickly ended - via a new approach to monetary policy, long ago explained by Lindauer and adopted by other countries. It was while at Claremont as professor of economics that Lindauer first modeled the concept of aggregate supply and related it with the concept of aggregate demand to develop many of the macroeconomic theories presented herein and integrate

them into the then-existing theories of inflation and unemployment. Importantly in these days of high unemployment, the unique and quickly effective monetary policies he suggested years ago to end recessions and depressions without causing inflation or exacerbating government deficits are today immediately available without requiring fiscal changes or the passage of new laws and regulations. Professor Lindauer's other publications include "Land Taxation and Indian Economic Development" (with Sarjit Singh); various editions of his Macroeconomics series; and his early ground-breaking journal articles such as "Stabilization Inflation and the Inflation-Unemployment Trade-off." A non-technical version of this work is available as *Inflations, Unemployment, and Government Deficits: End Them*. It is suitable for journalists, laymen, and lawyers serving as Federal Reserve governors. Lindauer's books have been translated into Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Hindi, and Chinese and the policies his theories suggest implemented by central banks around the world. He has additionally served as a visiting professor at Sussex University, the University of California (SD), and Punjab University. He lives in Scottsdale and Chicago. His teaching is limited to lectures and visiting professorships.

Edited and with an introduction by Benjamin M. Friedman The connection between price inflation and real economic activity has been a focus of macroeconomic research--and debate--for much of the past century. Although this connection is crucial to our understanding of what monetary policy can and cannot accomplish, opinions about its basic properties have swung widely over the years. Today, virtually everyone studying monetary policy acknowledges that, contrary to what many modern macroeconomic models suggest, central bank actions often affect both inflation and measures of real economic activity, such as output, unemployment, and incomes. But the nature and magnitude of these effects are not yet understood. In this volume, Robert M. Solow and John B. Taylor present their views on the dilemmas facing U.S. monetary policymakers. The discussants are Benjamin M. Friedman, James K. Galbraith, N. Gregory Mankiw, and William Poole. The aim of this lively exchange of views is to make both an intellectual contribution to macroeconomics and a practical contribution to the solution of a public policy question of central importance.

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