

Congressman Pence appeared alongside Congressman Barney Frank on the *PBS* show "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" yesterday to discuss the negotiations over the proposed bailout package.

Transcript is available from *PBS* [HERE](#) , and some key excerpts are pasted below:

*MARGARET WARNER: Congressman Pence, where do you think these negotiations are? I mean, was any progress made, in terms of you and the group you're with on your issues, as far as you're concerned, this afternoon?*

*REP. MIKE PENCE (R), Indiana: Well, let me say, House Republicans know our financial markets are in turmoil. And I agree with Chairman Frank that it's important that Congress act. But nationalizing every bad mortgage in America is not the answer.*

*Now, I can appreciate the chairman's frustration about not having heard alternatives. You know, we only learned about this crisis about a week ago. And like most Americans, we've been drinking out of a fire hose and trying to develop solutions that are reflective of our own ideals. And in our case, the House Republicans believe that we should not pass along the cost of a \$700 billion bailout from Main Street to Wall Street.*

*We think that there are alternatives, including, rather than authorizing the Treasury to race around the country, purchasing every bad mortgage it can find, we think that we ought to build a structure, very much like another FDIC, not a very foreign institution to most Americans. We ought to ask institutions on Wall Street to pay premiums on a mandatory basis into that fund, a fund that would -- their premium would be based upon the amount of bad paper that they have.*

*And in that real sense, Wall Street would pay for this recovery and not Main Street. We also would like to see tax reforms, lifting the current high rate of tax on repatriation of assets. There's other ways we can encourage capital formation.*

*But we really do believe Wall Street ought to have a hand up and not a handout. And I believe the majority of the American people are with us on that...*

*MARGARET WARNER: But, gentlemen, let me just interrupt for a minute. Congressman Pence, Congressman Frank said, as an option, the insurance proposal is theoretically not unacceptable to House Democrats.*

*Is it acceptable to you as an option, but still leave Secretary Paulson's core proposal? Are you unalterably opposed to having the U.S. government go in and buy these troubled securities?*

*REP. MIKE PENCE: Well, let me say, for myself, I simply find it anathema that the federal government would borrow \$700 billion from future generations of Americans to nationalize every bad mortgage in America.*

*But the idea of the Republican insurance plan, again, it wouldn't be optional, and we're all catching up with details on this. Republicans are suggesting that everyone who deals in these mortgage-backed securities would pay into a mortgage-backed securities fund, like the FDIC at the Treasury Department. It's just their premiums would be either larger or smaller based upon what kind of business decisions that they make.*