参考译文 美国2万亿美元经济刺激

District of Columbia. The U.S. Congress and the White House have joined the Federal Reserve, the country's central bank, in trying to lessen the economic damage from the corona virus pandemic. The big focus here is on a stimulus package, a massive plan of government spending, intended to stimulate the U.S. economy. How massive? The Senate deal which is supported by the Trump Administration is worth $2 trillion. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell described it as a wartime level of investment for America. Here's what the money would be spent on.

哥伦比亚特区。美国国会和白宫与美国中央银行联邦储备委员会一道，努力减轻冠状病毒大流行对经济造成的损害。这里的重点是经济刺激计划，也是大规模的政府支出计划，旨在刺激美国经济。规模到底有多大呢?由特朗普政府支持的参议院协议价值2万亿美元。参议院多数党领袖米奇·麦康奈尔称这是美国战时的投资水平。这些钱会花在以下这些地方：

$500 billion would be intended to help big companies get through this corona virus pandemic. $350 billion would be in loans for small businesses in the hopes it will help them stay in business. $250 billion would be given directly to American taxpayers in the hopes that they'll spend it but those payments would only go to individuals who earn less than $99,000 a year or couples who earn less than $198,000 a year. Hundreds of billions more would go to help hospitals, Americans who've lost their jobs and state and local governments.

5000亿美元将用于帮助大公司渡过这次冠状病毒大流行。3500亿美元将用于小型企业的贷款，希望能帮助他们维持经营。2500亿美元将直接拨给美国纳税人，希望他们会花掉这笔钱，但这些款项只会拨给年收入低于9.9万美元的个人或年收入低于19.8万美元的夫妻。还有数千亿美元将用于帮助医院、失业的美国人以及州和地方政府。

The agreement would still have to be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives before it goes to President Donald Trump's desk for signature. So the bill is not finalized and it's not clear how long that will take. But the news of it was welcomed on Wall Street. After setting several records for single day point losses in recent weeks, the Dow Jones Industrial Average of 30 important stocks set a new record on Tuesday for its biggest ever single point gain. Will all this shorten an expected recession?

该协议仍需经美国众议院通过，然后才能送交唐纳德·特朗普总统签署。所以这项法案还没有最终确定，也不清楚需要多长时间。但这一消息受到了华尔街的欢迎。道琼斯工业股票平均价格指数30只重要股票的单日跌幅在近几周创下数项纪录之后，周二又创下历史最大单日涨幅纪录。所有这些会缩短预期的衰退现象吗?

So what's the difference between a recession and a depression? It comes down to how long the economy contracts. A recession is typically defined as two negative quarters of economic growth and is part of the normal business cycle. The U.S. economy has fallen into recession more than 30 times since 1854. A depression is something vastly different.

那么，衰退和萧条有什么区别呢?这取决于经济收缩的时间。衰退通常被定义为经济增长的两个负增长季度，是正常商业周期的一部分。自1854年以来，美国经济已经30多次陷入衰退。而大萧条则完全不同。

It happens when the economic decline is sustained and might potentially go on for years. That's only occurred once in American history in 1929 and it lasted 10 years. Because it lasts so long, a depression is more severe. A decade ago unemployment hit 10 percent during the worst of the "Great Recession" but during the "Great Depression" the jobless rate peaked at nearly 25 percent.

它发生在经济持续衰退持续并可能持续数年的状况下。这种情况在美国历史上只发生过一次，那就是1929年，而且持续了10年。因为经济衰退持续的时间太长，所以会更加严重。十年前，在“大衰退”最严重的时候，失业率达到10%，但在“大萧条”期间，失业率达到近25%的峰值。

The reason economists are so worried this time, we just don't know how long we'll be fighting this virus. We don't know how long stores will be shut down, how long travel will be paused, how much damage will be done to supply chains or how many companies will go bankrupt. But there is hope if you look to history. The recession that followed the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic lasted just seven months. That's much shorter than the average recession. Let's hope this time history repeats.

经济学家们这次如此担心的原因是，我们不知道还要与这种病毒战斗多久。不知道商店会关门多久，旅行会暂停多久，供应链会受到多大的损害，有多少公司会破产。但如果你回顾历史，就会看到希望。1918年西班牙流感大流行之后的经济衰退只持续了7个月。这比一般的衰退时间要短得多。希望这一次历史能够重演。

听力原文

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