Mr. Bernanke Tries to Push Confidence Swing

At Federal Reserve meetings under Mr. Bernanke, the Fed has continued to signal that more rate rises may be needed. But in recent weeks, Mr. Bernanke has stepped up his efforts to reassure markets that the Fed is ready to change course if that becomes necessary, including by making more comments on the risks the Fed judges to be confronting the economy.

Mr. Bernanke warned last week about the risk of deflation, saying the U.S. economic recovery might falter if prices fall. Mr. Bernanke also said on Tuesday that the Fed is "fully prepared to decrease interest rates" if needed to support the economy.

Mr. Bernanke said the Fed is "fully prepared to reduce the federal funds rate at our next meeting in December" if the economy does not improve. He added that the Fed is "fully prepared to decrease interest rates at any time if needed to support the economy".

Mr. Bernanke's comments come as the Fed is poised to raise interest rates again this month. The central bank has already raised rates four times this year, and some economists expect it to raise rates again in December.

Mr. Bernanke has long believed the Fed must be ready to change course if the economy falters, and he has often made comments to that effect.

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individuals and partnerships held a stake in technology firms. Google's securities filing prior to its initial public offering, the state was characterized by some of Clinton's supporters as a "no-commerce" state. The presentation, however, showed that a number of the state's largest companies had been headquartered in several states, including California, New York, and Texas, where Mr. Sonsini was a director or CEO at the time of the legal work.