The Pecora Investigation

bit.ly/LbHPecora Runtime: 10:24



Video Guides

Guide A: Best for checking understanding of key events and details. Includes answer key with video timestamps.

Guide B: Best for active note-taking and connecting evidence to the video's big ideas. Does not include answer key, as student responses will vary.

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LEARNING BY HEARINGS

The Pecora Investigation

Guide A: Comprehension and Discussion Questions

https://bit.ly/LbHPecora

Comprehension Questions

1) Who was Ferdinand Pecora, and what was his role in investigating Wall Street?

2) What actions by bankers and financial leaders came under investigation?

3) How did the investigation affect the public's view of the banking industry?

4) What reforms resulted from the investigation, and what were they intended to accomplish?

Discussion Questions

The takeaways from this investigation are:

1. The Pecora investigation showed that at a difficult time in the nation's history, Congress could dig deep into complex issues and push through significant reforms.
2. This investigation set the stage for using congressional subpoenas to compel even the most powerful persons and corporations to provide needed information.
3. Laws to limit the abusive financial practices and safeguard investors and depositors could be enacted with bipartisan support in Congress and with widespread support from the public.
4. It highlighted the crucial role of congressional staff in investigations. Ferdinand Pecora put in the hard work needed to get the facts behind the stock market crash and produce hearings that explained what happened.

Which of these is the most important or lasting and why? Do any of them still impact our lives today?

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LEARNING BY HEARINGS

The Pecora Investigation ANSWER KEY

Guide A: Comprehension and Discussion Questions

https://bit.ly/LbHPecora

Comprehension Questions

1) Who was Ferdinand Pecora, and what was his role in investigating Wall Street?

Pecora was a lawyer who led the Senate investigation into Wall Street banking and financial practices after the 1929 stock market crash. (0:30)

2) What actions by bankers and financial leaders came under investigation?

Investigators uncovered practices such as insider trading, market manipulation, fraud, and misleading investors. (3:00)

3) How did the investigation affect the public's view of the banking industry?

Testimony from prominent financial leaders revealed questionable practices and increased public anger and distrust toward Wall Street. (6:00)

4) What reforms resulted from the investigation, and what were they intended to accomplish?

The investigation helped build support for stronger federal financial regulation, including the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), to protect investors and reduce financial abuses. (9:00)

Discussion Questions

The takeaways from this investigation are:

1. The Pecora investigation showed that at a difficult time in the nation's history, Congress could dig deep into complex issues and push through significant reforms.
2. This investigation set the stage for using congressional subpoenas to compel even the most powerful persons and corporations to provide needed information.
3. Laws to limit the abusive financial practices and safeguard investors and depositors could be enacted with bipartisan support in Congress and with widespread support from the public.
4. It highlighted the crucial role of congressional staff in investigations. Ferdinand Pecora put in the hard work needed to get the facts behind the stock market crash and produce hearings that explained what happened.

Which of these is the most important or lasting and why? Do any of them still impact our lives today?

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The Pecora Investigation

Guide B: Evidence Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you watch the video, record facts, examples, or statements that support each takeaway.

https://bit.ly/LbHPecora

Takeaway	Fact, example, or statement to support it
The Pecora Investigation showed that at a difficult time in the nation's history, Congress could dig deep into complex issues and push through significant reforms.	
This investigation set the stage for using congressional subpoenas to compel even the most powerful persons and corporations to provide needed information.	
Laws to limit the abusive financial practices and safeguard investors and depositors could be enacted with bipartisan support in Congress and with widespread support from the public.	
This investigation highlighted the crucial role of congressional staff in investigations. Ferdinand Pecora put in the hard work needed to get the facts behind the stock market crash and produce hearings that explained what happened.	

Which takeaway was most compelling or convincing? Circle or highlight your answer. How does this investigation (and its consequences) still impact our lives today?

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