

Presidents and the Constitution



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Steel Seizure Case

Checks and Balances

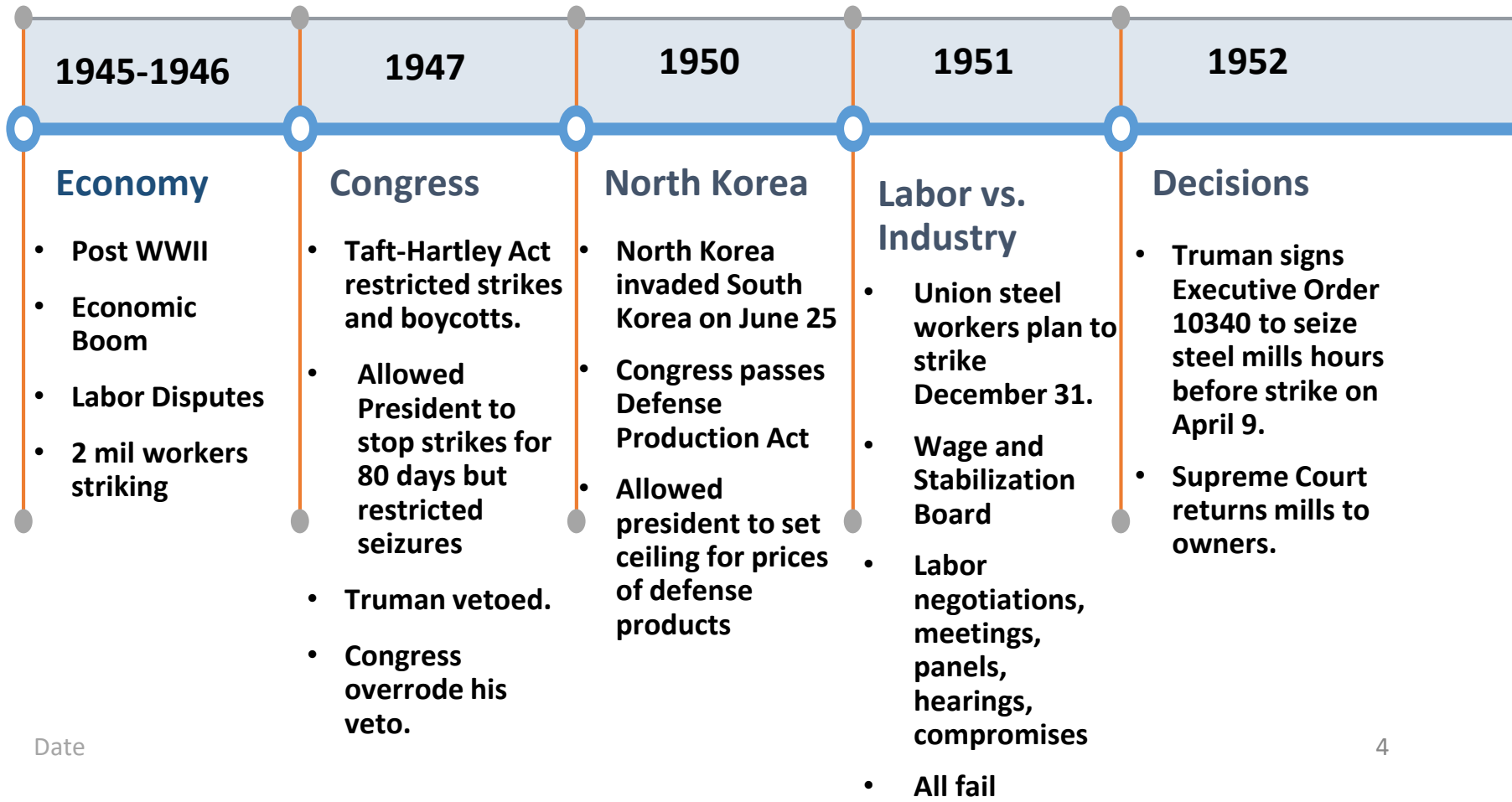
Separation of Powers

Implied/Inherent Powers

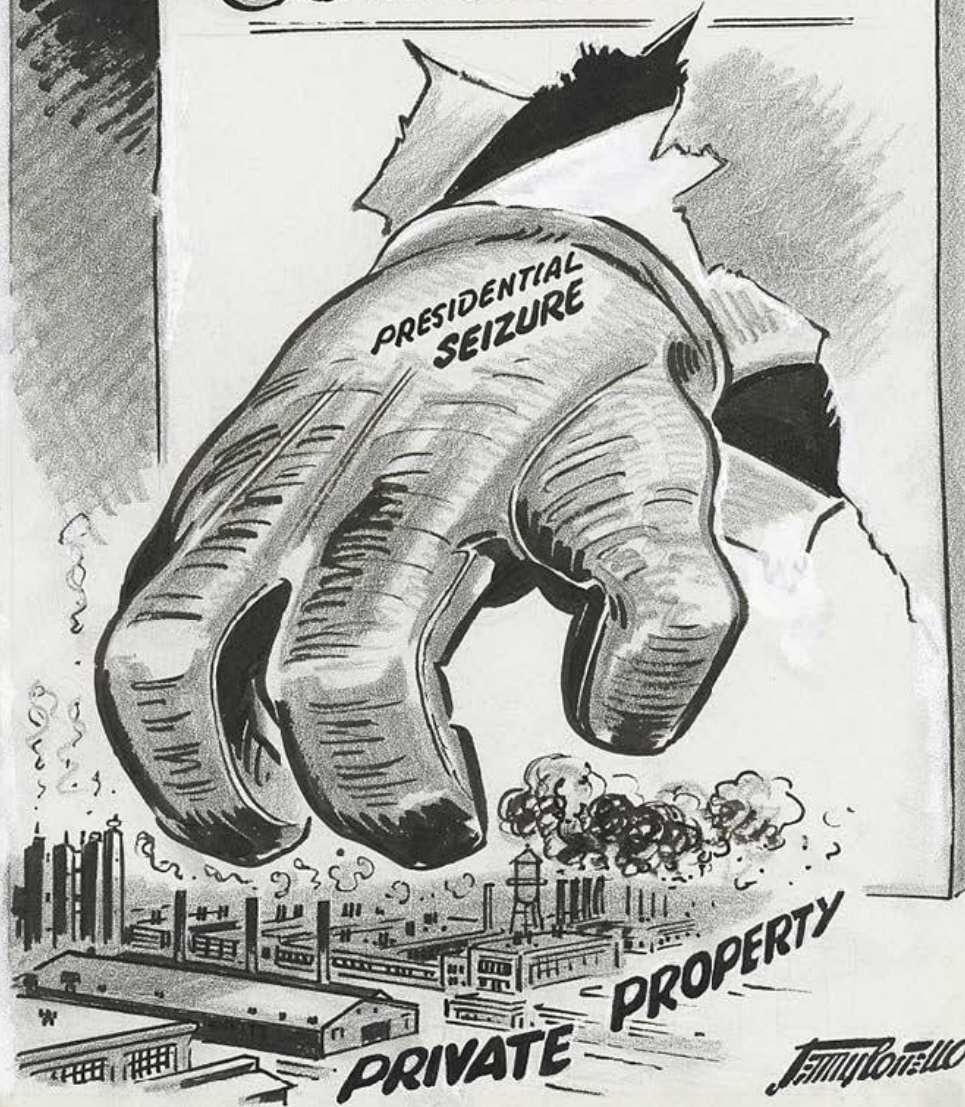
Truman and the Steel Crisis



Post WWII America



The CONSTITUTION



Analyze a Cartoon



Meet the cartoon.

What do you see?

Is the cartoon?

- BLACK AND WHITE COLOR

Is there a caption?

- YES NO

If so, what does the caption tell you?



Observe its parts.

Are there people, symbols, or objects in the cartoon?



PEOPLE



SYMBOLS



OBJECTS

What are the people doing in the cartoon?

What are the objects used for in the cartoon?

Write two words that describe the cartoon.

Try to make sense of it.

Answer as best you can. The caption, if available, may help.

What do the symbols stand for in the cartoon?

Who drew the cartoon?

When do you think this cartoon was drawn?

What is the main idea of the cartoon?

List two parts (words or objects from the cartoon) that support the main idea.



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think we could find out more information about the people, symbols, or objects in the cartoon?



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Breakout Session: 8 groups (5 min)

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/82/radio-and-television-address-american-people-need-government-operation> (Truman address)

Groups: 1-4

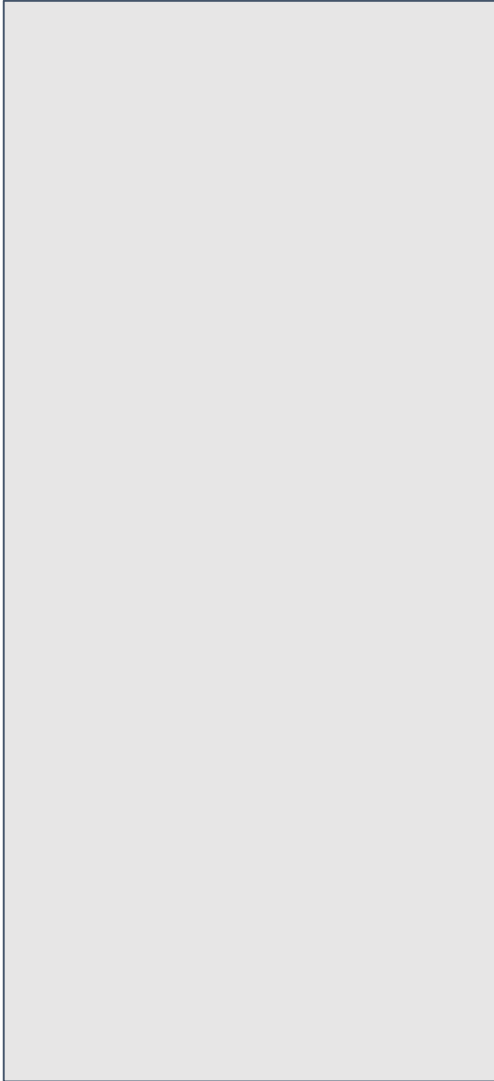
What were the reactions and arguments from the steel **owners** to President Truman's radio address?

Groups: 5-8

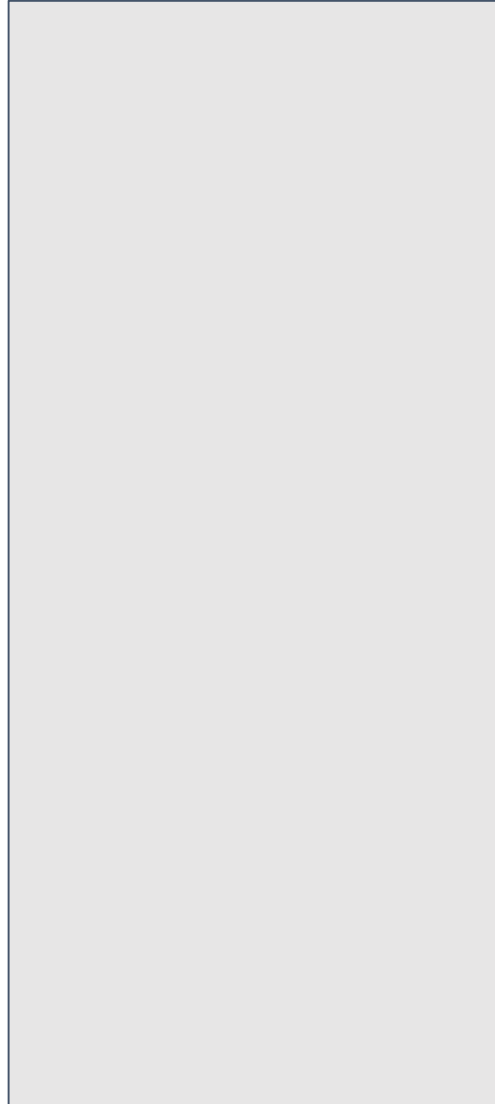
What were the reactions and arguments from the steel **workers** to President Truman's radio address?

Select a spokesperson to report out at the end of breakout session.

Steel Owners



Steel Workers



President Truman

- The war required that the steel mills remain in operation.
- A steel industry strike would sacrifice America's national defense and the lives of American soldiers.
- "Inherent powers" in the constitution supported the executive power vested in a president; shall be Commander in Chief during a national emergency.



Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company v. Sawyer (referred to as the Steel Seizure Case)

In a 6-3 decision this was a landmark United States Supreme Court decision that limited the power of the President of the United States to seize private property.

- “The President’s power, if any, to issue the order must stem either from an act of Congress or from the Constitution itself.” There had been no act of Congress, so the Court turned to the Constitution.
- The Court ruled that the President’s role of Commander in Chief power did not authorize the action, and neither did the “several constitutional provisions that grant executive power to the President.

Resources

- <https://youtu.be/TqePUkGtm4o> (animated overview)
- <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/82/radio-and-television-address-american-people-need-government-operation> (Truman address)
- <https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-4-4-b-seizure-truman-takes-the-steel-mills.html> (Background essay)
- <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/lesson-plans/limits-presidential-power> (Presidential Powers lesson)
- <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education> (Education resources)
- Mark.adams@nara.gov and Angela.estep@nara.gov
- www.TrumanLibrary.gov