

President Hoover's letter to Senator Fess

1. What date was this letter written and what major event in U.S. history was occurring?
2. Why do you think President Hoover wants to keep this letter a secret from the American people?
3. Under what conditions would he want the information publicized?
4. What is this letter going to address?
5. Summarize the major conditions Hoover describes in the second paragraph.
6. What does Hoover believe the people fear?
7. What do Hoover and Democratic leaders in Congress disagree about?
8. According to Hoover, Democratic leaders want who to help fix the economy?
9. Is Hoover in favor of increased tariffs? Explain.
10. Summarize the first period.
11. Summarize the second period.
12. Summarize the third period.
13. Summarize fourth period.
14. What period does Hoover compare the fifth too and why?
15. What three suggestions does Hoover make for the new incoming president?
16. Who does Hoover believe ought to reassure the American people that things will be okay?
17. What is the major ingredient needed, in Hoover's opinion, for the nation to turn itself around?
18. Why do you believe Hoover has written this letter?

Answers

1. 02/21/33, Great Depression
2. Does not want to make matters worse.
3. If FDR lies or misleads the American people as to why the Great Depression occurred.
4. Causes of the current economic situation.
5. People were hoarding money and gold as never before, banks failing, prices so low debtors could not pay creditors, orders made before election cancelled, unemployment way up, money fleeing to foreign nations, no new business.
6. New deal policies and abandonment of Hoover's successful policies.
7. Taxation to balance the budget.
8. Federal government.
9. Yes, because believes it will increase employment.
10. Began in second half of 1933 in Europe when their economy collapsed since it slowed exports, prices fell, too much credit, people were scared into hoarding money and gold, banks failed, money leaving the nation, foreign money left, unemployment went up, agriculture went down, and most people in the country upset.
11. Recovery for 60-90 days in 2/32 because of new laws passed, helped all conditions listed above.

12. April-July of 1932, Congress rejected President's proposals including balancing the budget, public works projects, loans by Reconstruction Corporation, and people's confidence dropped which exacerbated the problems.
13. After Congress adjourned in July-October, the economy improved and everything looked brighter.
14. 3rd period because things spiraled downward because Democratic leaders refused to support the president's policies.
15. A balanced budget even if it means increased taxes.
16. President elect FDR (although he doesn't mention his name).
17. Confidence.
18. Answers will vary but might include: to protect himself in the future, to avoid future blame for problems, to prove that he tried to fix the situation but Congress would not cooperate.