

## **Michael R. Lemov**

**Chief Counsel, Investigations Subcommittee, House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee**

### **Response to the National Commission's Report**

Michael R. Lemov describes the drive behind the consumer rights movement.

*Interview recorded October 26, 2010*

I wish I could say that people marched in the streets, on 16th Street or they crowded into the Gaslight Club, which was next door, our next door neighbor. The hearings were well attended. Surely the fledgling consumer movement, Consumer Federation and maybe Nader's groups, had some people there, and testified. The press covered it. People on Capitol Hill probably read all those articles. And when the report got to Capitol Hill, it was already well known. But I can't say that the American public pushed this bill through, through, from a grassroots movement. This was top-down. This was Congress leading—the Senate and ultimately the House, ultimately. It took a while for the House to get going. But, but this was, this was leadership from the, from the elected Representatives and Senators, not a grassroots push from the bottom.