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Apollo at 50

Discussion Questions

Session 16: The Apollo 1 Fire

1. Congress, in its oversight role, conducted hearings on the cause of the fire and on NASA's planned responses to what they had learned. Why did they do this? What were the results of their having done so? What might they have done differently?
2. One outcome of accident investigations is to learn technical things. Other outcomes are to learn things about failings of leadership, management, or review processes. What did NASA learn about those "softer" things from the accident? And if they learned them, why did similar deficiencies in leadership management, and review processes continue to be found after the subsequent Challenger and Columbia space shuttle accidents?