



VIEWER VOICES

COMMENTS & ANSWERS TO FAREED'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK 05-02-2010

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Last week we asked “After hearing a detailed defense of Goldman’s actions from CEO Lloyd Blankfein, do you have a better opinion of Goldman Sachs?” 26% of our viewers who answered wrote that you have a better opinion of Goldman Sachs,” approximately 17% of you were somewhere in the middle, and clear majority, 57% of you, wrote no, you do not have a better opinion or you have a worse opinion of Goldman Sachs after hearing Lloyd Blankfein on our show.

Of the 57% of you who wrote in, many agree with [Cliff Howeth](#). “Everything Blankfein said was “meant to be confusing to the average person. All he was saying was that his company had to make a huge profit no matter what. If investors wanted to bet the sun wouldn't rise the next morning, they would be happy to "hedge" their bets.”

Many of the approximately 26% of you whose opinion of Goldman improved, wrote something similar to **Arnie Mori**. “Based on information to date, Goldman Sachs did nothing illegal. As the most successful firm on Wall Street, it is a convenient target for populist anger and political expedience.”

MORE:

Regarding your question of the week: Do you feel more positive about Goldman Sachs? after your interview: My answer is "hell no." His responses were nothing but obfuscating jargon and answers meaningless. He and his kind are nothing but a pack of schemers who dreamed up deals that they certainly cannot and will not explain and virtually no one understands other than the products were junk.

Elsie Ebnet
Ipoh, Malaysia

I must say, seeing your interview with Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman/S changes my opinion. Mr. Blankfein is most impressive. Do we punish Goldman/S for doing a good job at balancing risk...what a prudent Wall Street Firm should be

doing...Financial Management 101. I still think we certainly need more financial regulations, I don't feel that Goldman/S should be punished for just being a smart, risk adverse financial firm. Great job on your interview, giving us the "other" side of the story."

Kevin Fitzgerald
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Absolutely no change in my opinion of the 12-year olds on Wall Street who work only for themselves and American be damned! That guy Blankstein is amoral--and he thinks he's doing "God's work?" Ha They should:

1. Be charged in criminal court
2. Go to jail
3. Pay back every bit of money they made at our expense. Salary and bonus included.

Paulsen too.

Addalou Davis
Cameron Park, CA

Having Blankfein in an interview brought much clarity to a confusing subject.

Donald Mirrielees

Mr. Zakaria: Your interview did not change my opinion of Mr. Blankfein or Goldman Sachs. What came through strongly was that Goldman's bottom line was the primary concern during their transactions. That was and is his mission. Litton Financial is a subsidiary of Goldman. They are also the company that services my mortgage. For three years we have been attempting to come to some agreement with Goldman/Litton on our mortgage; during that time in the absence of cooperation we have gone from being underwater to foreclosure, to walking away from the house in question. They had no interest in our position because they were making money on the deal. Growing up in NYC there was a street game called three card monte. The Goldman game has elevated that one to new heights. There are few apologists for the street level game; but a hosts of powerful ones for the Goldman/Litton version of the game. What is common to both versions is that folks like myself don't matter-that is until we make ourselves so.

I Am **Bernard W. Saunders**, Human Being

I feel that there is a witch-hunt against Goldman Sachs. Mr. Blankfein explained their business in very clear terms. And I trust him. Congratulations, Fareed, for taking a position last week which goes against the mainstream of public opinion at the moment. That was a great contribution against populism. Best regards,

Nancy Krueger

Lloyd Blankfein's prevarication is convincing testimony to his own realization of culpability. Even in a period of wild west shoot-out lawlessness of the Greenspan era Goldman Sachs fractured the veneer of legal protection and shattered all ethical precepts. To attribute any social or ethical standards on security traders or bankers is like expecting a shark to empathies with the baby seal it is about to dine on.

Sam R

Having this man (Blankfein) on for almost the whole show was without question the worst decision you could have made.. Why give this man so much publicity. He and his company are what is wrong with the financial markets today. No ethics and morals, yet he does not know it. Did not believe one word of what he had to say.

David

Thank you for having Blankfein on your show, I have a much better understanding of his job and feel he is innocent of deliberate damage to the economy.

Debbie Shaw

Jay, FLlifeis

This wolf wears sheep's clothing with surprising elegance. And I hold a certain respect for wolves. But trust? "Quoth the raven...."

Judie Herr
FL, USA

I do NOT feel more encouraged after listening to the Chair of Goldman Sachs - he is smug - we are all too ignorant to understand the world of high finance. If I practiced nursing the way Mr. Blankfein practices finance, my license to practice would have been taken away along time ago. And under no circumstances would I be given a bonus that could feed a small nation for my failures.

Marie L. Lobo
Albuquerque, New Mexico

I feel the same way I always have about Goldman Sachs. They are ruthless and will change their PR but not their ways to try to remain on top. Notice some of their emails bragging about taking a short position on the Gulf just prior to the BP tragedy. Our major business schools need an attitude change because they are the institutions pumping out these business graduates with their toxic attitudes and total lack of ethics.

S. A. Okros, Adairsville, Ga

You asked us to write - I'm happy to. I think Mr. Blankfein made a very good case for his company this morning. His final comments - to the effect that Goldman Sachs doesn't have branch offices on the street corners and doesn't deal with individual small investors (such as myself) - was convincing. It's really incorrect to keep comparing his company's actions with someone selling a house with an undisclosed leaky roof...

Probably you will receive more mail on the other side, but that's because people are looking for a scapegoat for the country's problems and think they've found one. I have no connection to Goldman Sachs or anybody in that entire field, but his case makes sense to me.

(My wife and I love your show and your columns!)

Robert Cohen

Thank you for your show with Loyd Blankfein. I have a much better opinion of Goldman Sachs after listening to your show. I think GS may have been a scapegoat for many. Why do we not hear more about the failure of Fannie and Freddie or the regulators that were to protect us from such calamities. I was surprised to find out how GS was relatively small player in the real estate mortgage business.

Bruce Carlson

Mr Blankfein's overall position seems to be, "Look... this is how we act to make money. You can't blame us for protecting (hedging) our investments. It's the right thing to do. In regard to how much money I make it's very simple... if I make the company money, I should be compensated. There's nothing wrong with that."

Reminds me of how Al Capone became so popular with the "Blue Bloods" of Chicago. "He's so wealthy and dynamic!" Totally forgetting the murderous path of destruction he knowingly left behind in his path.

Mark Arnold

