

CFO

COVER STORY | A CFO ROUNDTABLE



Cliff Griep,
Standard &
Poor's

Peter
Clapman,
TIAA-CREF

Ed Nusbaum,
Grant Thornton

Robert Willens,
Lehman Brothers

Chuck Hill,
Thomson
Financial/
First Call

Laura Unger,
former SEC
commissioner

Edmund Jenkins,
FASB

WHAT MUST BE DONE? THE EXPERTS WEIGH IN ON HOW TO PREVENT FUTURE ENRONS.

Many observers

complain that the financial reforms proposed so far by Congress, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other government bodies in the wake of Enron Corp.'s collapse are a case of too little, too late. That's clearly so for Enron's shareholders and employees. But critics also worry that congressional hearings into the debacle amount to political grandstanding, and that any legislative or regulatory change in their wake will fall short of what's necessary to prevent future Enrons. Those demanding more draconian action have already blasted proposals by SEC chairman Harvey Pitt aimed at better oversight of auditors, for instance, as Band-Aids for the emergency room.

To address the growing controversy, *CFO* invited representatives of the SEC, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and Wall Street's nexus of banks, credit agencies, auditing firms, and investors to take part in a roundtable discussion of the issues raised by Enron. The participants were Peter Clapman, chief counsel for TIAA-CREF, one of the nation's largest pension funds; Cliff Griep, head of credit-ratings policy for Standard & Poor's; Chuck Hill, director of research for Thomson Financial/First Call; Edmund Jenkins, chairman of FASB; Ed Nusbaum, CEO of Chicago-based accounting firm Grant Thornton; former SEC commissioner Laura Unger; and Robert Willens, a managing director at Lehman Brothers. The roundtable was moderated by *CFO* deputy editor Ronald Fink.