

## The Modern Day Spanish Inquisition

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*SUBJECT(S): LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION*

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This Article discusses the purpose, scope, and limitations of legislative investigations. It opens by giving the historical background of such investigations, starting from its origins in England, to its roots in America, and to its development in the Philippines. The Article proceeds by examining the purpose and scope of the power of legislative investigations in connection with the exercise of the other powers vested in the Congress. It also tackles several aspects inherent in such inquiries, namely: (1) the production of documents; (2) the question of relevance; and (3) the investigations of executive officials.

It also delves into the delegation of such power to the Senate committees, who will then be the one in charge of conducting investigations in aid of legislation. It also examines the sanctions enforced for disobedience, which includes being cited for contempt and charged with a criminal complaint in court. Lastly, the Article discusses the defenses which are unavailable to a person subject to a legislative inquiry, and the extent of judicial review that may be allowed in such circumstances.