



**Compensation at Credit** 

"Delivery of carrots should be tied directly to results in the area that a manager controls" Warren Buffett

# Brief Introduction of General Electric

- Jack Welch, former CEO, left the company in the year 2001
- New CEO, Jeffery Immelt, joined only days before 9/11 in 2001
- Immelts' arrival: period of slow growth of GE, falling stock prices, slipping reputation, criticism on 'treating executives like royalties', and adversarial stockholders' meetings

### Intro; Continue...

• Immelts' meeting with Warren Buffet, a shareholder at GE

 Compensation Committees' concerns over changing Immelts' compensation package.

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# A Brief History of

GE formed by Thomas Alva Edison in 1878
Originally called Edison Electric light company
Merged with Thomas-Houston Electric Company in 1892 to
form General Electric Company
First president was Charles A. Coffin

#### history continued

GE had the largest market capitalization of any company in the world Company paid dividends to its 4 million shareholders every quarter since 1899 and increased dividends every year since 1975

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### The Welch Era

- Very few leaders can manage organizations as big as GE which makes it difficult to evaluate compensation level
- Jack Welch was described as a hero, a legend, and the 'worlds' greatest business leader' of his times.
- · His style was hard driving, imperial, and self-confident
- GE's board anxious that Welch would want to retire at age of 60 like former CEOs, offered Jack a large cash settlement
- Jack refused the cash offer
- · Jack chose Immelt, to replace him as the next CEO in 2001

# Immelt takes the Reins:

First years were tumultuous due to attack of 9/11 (stock prices declined, loss of \$80 billion market capitalization, and criticism on GE's financial disclosure practices)

Immelts style; responsiveness to stockholders' concerns