

FOOTAGE: THE WEAVERS - "TZENA TZENA" FEATURING PETE BANJO INTERLUDE.

NARRATION: Between 1950 and 1952, Pete Seeger and his bandmates in The Weavers sold over four million records with their interpretations of folk songs like "Goodnight Irene," "Tzena, Tzena" and "Kisses Sweeter than Wine." It should have been a triumphant time for them.

STILLS: HUAC TESTIMONY, HEADLINES ABOUT "REDS", PETE SEEGER PLAYING AT SCHOOLS, CAMPS, COLLEGES.

NARRATION: While The Weavers' commercial success sparked mainstream interest in folk music, but their political causes and past associations drew the attention of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The FBI's campaign to blacklist The Weavers caused their tours and recording deals to be cancelled. Charges of sedition and contempt of Congress dogged Seeger for the rest of the decade. But he found new audiences in schools, camps and colleges.

PETE SEEGER: All during the fifties, I was blacklisted from the commercial work, but I went from college to college to college to college. I showed a whole batch of people the songs of Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly. It's a lot of great music in this country that you hardly ever hear on the radio.

FOOTAGE: "HOOTENANNY" TV SHOW - with a folk group with banjo.

NARRATION: For years after the blacklist, the networks banned him from television, including some of the same shows that his music had inspired.

FOOTAGE: PETE ON "RAINBOW QUEST."

NARRATION: But he managed to get his own public access show, and with his tireless appearances at folk festivals, civil rights demonstrations and in print, Seeger passed along his passion for rural folk music to a new generation of musicians and fans. His message is written on his banjo.

IMAGE OF WOODY GUTHRIE - ZOOM IN TO HIS GUITAR.

PETE SEEGER INTERVIEW --ZOOM IN ON SLOGAN ON PETE'S BANJO.

PETE SEEGER: Woody went through World War Two with a sign on his guitar saying, "This machine kills fascists." And I was thinking over that sign and I decided to make something a little more peaceful. Here, read it. "This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender." I hope. You never can tell.

CU OF PETE SEEGER'S BANJO.