Without debating in this testimony the merits of the UGDP Study, it is difficult to imagine how a modern discussion of diabetes treatment fail to emphasize its findings. I am aware of at least one round-table discussion in a controlled circulation journal, Patient Care, which discussed the implications of the study in a balanced way, ultimately taking a middle-of-the-road position which suggested that many physicians who treat diabetes felt the oral hypoglycemic drug should be used more sparingly. This certainly seems a minimum position. The Pfizer symposium, however, largely avoided the whole issue.

Another example is a symposium sponsored by Wyeth Laboratories which was devoted entirely to its product Serax (oxazepam), a benzodiazepine tranquillizer similar to Librium and Valium. The proceedings of this conference were published as a supplement to the May 1975 issue of Diseases of the Nervous System. The special issue did not reveal the symposium's sponsorship, but contains articles which suggest special advantages that the Wyeth product may have over the other benzodiazepine tranquillizers.

I want to emphasize again that medical investigators must be free to write whatever they wish about drugs and to speculate about advantages one drug may have over another. In this case, however, the investigators were selected by the manufacturer to participate in an industry-sponsored meeting, the proceedings of the meeting were published without reference to such sponsorship, and the papers all turn out to be favorable to Serax.