son, our vice president for medical affairs. You have statements of their background before you, as you have mine. Let me simply say that they are scientists whose research contributions and professional distinction are internationally recognized.

Also present with us today are two distinguished independent rheumatologists, who are prepared briefly and informally to discuss their own experience with Indocin and their own perception of its place in the management of arthritic disorders. I make this distinction, Mr. Chairman, because I want to emphasize the conditions under which they are here, lest these conditions be misunderstood.

To make the record absolutely clear: when we heard about this inquiry into Indocin and decided that we should ask for an opportunity to testify, we asked Dr. Smyth and Dr. Calabro if they would be willing to appear and use a few minutes of the time allocated to us. They have performed clinical investigations on Indocin under grants from Merck to defray the costs of the work. We offered to pay their expenses in coming to Washington. We are not paying them an honorarium for their appearance here. We would not and could not pay them for their testimony. We asked them to accompany us only because we believed it would be helpful to the committee to hear the views of practicing rheumatologists who have studied Indocin in patients.

We are also accompanied today by Mr. Lloyd Cutler as our Washing counsel.

As I said at the outset, I will submit a closing statement with reference to what we think is the very responsible conduct of the company in the presentation and positioning of the product.

May I now introduce the president of the Merck Sharp & Dohme research laboratories, Dr. Max Tishler, whose curriculum vitae is submitted for the record. He is recognized as one of the great industrial research directors in the Western World. Rather than summarize his long list of achievements and honors here and abroad, I shall mention only two. Dr. Tishler is a life trustee of Tufts University and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Among its approximately 800 members, I understand the Academy has admitted less than 30 from industry. Dr. Tishler.

Senator NELSON. Doctor, the committee welcomes you and the other representatives of your distinguished company. We have always followed the policy on this committee, and I am sure we will continue to do so, which I have announced a number of times from the Chair, that we would permit any company from the drug industry to come before this committee upon its request. We desire to maintain a balance in the testimony, and I think at least a half dozen times from this chair, I have publicly invited both the companies and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association to appear. So we welcome you here today.

I think I should say to you that you may have based some of your viewpoints about the hearings upon what you have read in some of the medical publications and trade press as well as on statements by the PMA, and you might very well have come to the conclusion that this committee has not intended to receive balanced testimony. In fact, as I read the statements going out in a fair percentage of the medical publications, those that are supported by advertising and those that are not, I do not recognize that I have attended the same hearings that these reports have covered. I say the same thing about the statements