

rect-examine a witness or raise a tough question that sounds prejudicial does not mean anything at all. This is the way to explore an issue to get full information. If you have the information, the record will show the answer. This committee does not make medical judgments. We are trying to get the best professional witnesses we can find, and I think we have had some of the best in the country, as we intend to have, to conduct further hearings with the best witnesses we can find.

Mr. GADSDEN. Mr. Chairman, may I make a comment, please?

Senator NELSON. Surely.

Mr. GADSDEN. As will be evident in the subsequent testimony, while we disagree most deeply with some of the conclusions and statements of the Food and Drug Administration, we nevertheless, credit them with speaking out of sincere conviction. This is the way they saw it, but we do believe that they just happened to be in error as to their conclusions.

Senator NELSON. I think the FDA has very distinguished scientists and administrators and that they are sincere, just as I am sure you are. But that is the purpose of the hearing. If there is a difference in viewpoints, we want to hear yours so that, on balance, the record can be read and people can make a judgment about where the truth lies, whether it is on one side or the other or somewhere down the middle. We have had distinguished medical witnesses here—you are aware of this—from your own industry, from within the companies who will disagree vigorously about the interpretation of some kind of study, about the interpretation of the same set of facts. That is bound to be the case because medical science is still an art to a considerable degree. So there are bound to be differences of opinion. We want to hear all the best opinions we can get, both from those who feel one way and those who differ with them.

Mr. GADSDEN. Should Dr. Tishler proceed, sir?

Senator NELSON. I assume, Dr. Tishler, that if we have some questions while you are testifying, you will have no objection to interruptions?

STATEMENT OF MAX TISHLER, PH. D., PRESIDENT, MERCK SHARP & DOHME RESEARCH LABORATORIES, DIVISION OF MERCK & CO., INC., RAHWAY, N.J.

Dr. TISHLER. I have no objection.

Senator NELSON. We have your statement and your biographical data. They will both be included in full in the record. If there is something, while you are reading, that you would like to extemporize on or elaborate on that would have taken too much time to write out in detail, you may feel free to do so. If there is anything you would like to eliminate, feel free to do so, but your statement as submitted will go in the record in full, and anything you wish to change in the course of your testimony, you may.

Dr. TISHLER. Senator, I plan to read my statement.

(The biography of Dr. Tishler follows:)