same with little or no significant advantage one over the other? After all, no one manufacturer could reasonably be expected to tell him this.

This present "communication overkill" of today with its resultant confusion is exactly what the already overburdened physician does not need and it certainly does not serve the public.

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt you at this point?

You mentioned the drug efficacy panel's conclusion expressing concern and surprise about the generally poor quality of the evidence to support the efficacy of the drugs reviewed and the poor quality also of the labeling of those drugs.

Recently the Medical Tribune has attacked the Food and Drug Administration and the Kefauver amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. In articles and editorials the Medical Tribune quoted "experts" that:

One, "FDA policies since 1962 have brought about a 'stifling' of scientific creativity, escalation of research costs, and a 'continuing decline in the number of new drugs entering the market in this country.'"

Two, "Drug regulatory policies may be 'depriving the practicing physician of agents beneficial to patient care';" and, three, "American medicine currently faces a 'paradox' in which the drug industry's research capacity is getting better, the FDA is working harder, but there is 'decreasing productivity.'"

This is from the Medical Tribune.

The chairman of this particular protesting group is reported by the Medical Tribune to be Dr. Robert D. Dripps, vice president for medical affairs, the University of Pennsylvania.

Do you know anything about the background of the Dripps Committee and will you also comment on the allegations made in these editorials? The ones that I have quoted from the Dripps committee.

Dr. EDWARDS. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, let me say the Medical Tribune has been running a series of articles on the Food and Drug Administration, and, very frankly, it has continued up until today. So their attacks upon the Food and Drug Administration are not unexpected, nor uncommon.

As regarding Dr. Dripps and his group, I don't know the origin of this group. I have heard rumors. I do know Dr. Dripps and his colleagues have never taken sufficient interest to have communicated with me or with Dr. Simmons to try to really come to grips with some of these problems, or at least try to hear the other side of the problem.

Senator NELSON. Has any one of the signers of the issued statement reported in the Medical Tribune, contacted the FDA?

Dr. EDWARDS. None.

I am sending each one of the signers, today or tomorrow, a letter to invite them, if they would be willing to come to the Food and Drug Administration and discuss the problems as they visualize them. But I am certain there are people that signed that particular letter that have very little knowledge of what the Food and Drug Administration is doing, and how we balance our activities.

Senator NELSON. I didn't see all the names or all the signers. I noticed that among the signers were Dr. Modell, a distinguished and