

STATEMENT OF DR. THOMAS D. DUANE, PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. DUANE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Congressman Rooney, for that introduction.

My name is Dr. Thomas D. Duane. I am professor and head of ophthalmology at Jefferson Medical College Hospital, in Philadelphia.

I am here today, also as an investigator who is intimately involved in efforts to discern the mysteries of the visual system and one who has had the unique opportunity to survey in depth the present state of ocular research in the United States.

During 1962 and 1963 I spent 14 months in the conduct of a nationwide survey in which I examined at firsthand the conditions under which eye research was being carried on throughout the entire country.

I traveled more than 50,000 miles making personal site visits to over 100 institutions and research laboratories in every part of the Nation.

I had an opportunity to observe what they were doing, what they were capable of doing, what resources currently were available to them, and what their potential for accomplishment would be if more and better resources were made available to them.

I interviewed more than 600 medical school deans, administrators, department heads, and researchers, among them the most eminent leaders in the field of ophthalmology and ophthalmic research, men whose knowledge, experience, and productivity are respected throughout the profession.

These discussions covered all aspects of ocular research quality, quantity, shortcomings, and potential. In addition, I received quantitative data from questionnaires sent to all the eye research laboratories as well as information stemming from science information exchange.

This material was compiled in a publication of Research To Prevent Blindness, the voluntary medical research foundation which commissioned the survey and obtained my services with the consent and cooperation of the trustees and dean of the Jefferson Medical College.

The publication was entitled "Ophthalmic Research U.S.A." A copy was sent to each Member of Congress.

The evolution of the need for the survey has bearing on my testimony today. Research To Prevent Blindness, Inc. was organized in 1960 and was operating with the expert scientific advice of a small group of ophthalmic research leaders.

It became apparent to them that in order to plan for effective programs of research sponsorship, it was necessary to have in hand a total picture of the current status of eye research.

This would disclose the nature and substance of ongoing research efforts and would evaluate unmet needs and neglected opportunities which merited increased attention and responsible action.

This voluntary organization therefore committed \$130,000 of private funds to conduct the nationwide survey and to publish its findings. Before this time a similar survey had been planned and underwritten by NINDB in the field of neurological sciences.

Dr. Aura Sevringhaus, an eminent scientist and former associate dean at Columbia, was retained for this purpose. I believe it is significant to point out that though the economic costs of blindness equal or exceed those of neurological diseases and though the manpower shortage in ophthalmology equals or exceeds those in neurology, no similar