

FOREWORD

The Senate Small Business Committee recently published a report, *Small Business and Civic Welfare*, which was a study of the contrasts and similarities of two groups of cities, those in which independent small businesses predominated and those whose economy was characterized by large-scale business activities. This pioneer study revealed numerous facts on the social-economic and cultural practices of different types of American communities. With no important exception, the cities characterized by locally owned and operated independent businesses were found to be much better off than comparable cities whose business institutions were large scale and frequently absentee-owned. In submitting this report to the Congress, I, as chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, made it clear that this was one relatively small glimpse of the American business scene. Only through further studies of this kind, covering other sections of the country and different conditions of life, would we eventually obtain documentary proof of the relative value of big or small business in providing that kind of social life which best expresses our desires as free people living under a democratic political and economic system.

This report, *Small Business and the Community*, is another of these regional studies. A preliminary report, based on the study of two communities having essentially similar agricultural production but differing in the size of landholdings in the surrounding area, was presented to the committee during its field hearings. This testimony had a decided impression on the members, and the request followed that the completed report be submitted for publication in this series of studies covering the problems of small business, made under resolution of the Senate.

This report is the work of Dr. Walter R. Goldschmidt, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, at the University of California at Los Angeles. He had the advantage of advice and assistance of professional associates of national reputations in the field of agricultural economics and social studies.

Prof. Leonard Bloom, sociologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, writes:

I wish to express the opinion that this is a research of some importance which was carried out according to the most rigorous and objective scientific procedures. Shortly after it was completed, Dr. Goldschmidt submitted it to me for a critical appraisal, and I was completely satisfied with the competence of the work. It seems to me that this kind of work should commend itself to the attention of all persons interested in such questions because of its objectivity, impartiality, and scholarly soundness, and I feel that it merits publication.

Dr. Paul S. Taylor, professor of economics, University of California, at Berkeley, eminent authority in agricultural economics, writes:

I have been in touch with the comparative study of Arvin and Dinuba in the Central Valley of California since its inception. Its author, Dr. Walter R. Goldschmidt, is a competent scholar, well equipped by training and experience