

to the number of businesses is not dollar volume. If you want to count the barbershops and count the little corner ma-and-pa stores, you will find fairly high participation in that particular area of Harlem. But if you want to talk about volume of stores, volume in terms of retail establishments, the analysis that we have is that it is probably less than 15 percent of the total dollar volume, which is really important, in Harlem that actually goes through black-owned stores.

Mr. ADDABBO. I think we have to differentiate the little ma-and-pa store from the large department stores. If you rely only on sales volume, you get into a different phase of small business.

Mr. SAMUELS. I recognize that, Congressman. And I just have to say to you—and I am sure you have been in Harlem, and I am sure, knowing your own district, that you have seen some of the dilapidated conditions in your own district. And one of the things we do is help rebuild them. And you will not rebuild them without some participation by the inner city people in that rebuilding.

Mr. ADDABBO. On rebuilding we agree. But what we are speaking of, and what you have spoken on, is the purchasing, the buying out. This is my understanding of your statement.

Mr. SAMUELS. That is certainly one of the possibilities—

Mr. ADDABBO. We all look for the rebuilding, it is how we are going to continue our economy.

Mr. SAMUELS. You will be surprised, Mr. Congressman, at the large number of white merchants in the country who have come to our SBA offices in the last month and have asked if there is any way we can help them sell their businesses to members of the minority community. This is a sad commentary on where our country is today, but this is the reality of where we are today. And I think that much of what we are doing serves not only the interests of the black community or the Puerto Rican community, but also the interests of the white community itself.

Mr. ADDABBO. This is a proper function of SBA—be it white or black—to come to the aid of small business in selling or buying.

Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I think that a lot of our members are going to want to ask you questions.

You may continue.

Mr. SAMUELS. Last year we made 2,000 loans to minorities in the country. It is the feeling of our research staff that if we are going to really develop the inner cities of the country with a reasonable proportion of minority ownership—and I might say to Mr. Corman that we do support the development of minority businesses outside of the inner city, and we do support small business development of white businesses who are rebuilding inside the inner city—I might say that this is very small today, because for lots of reasons that I think America is pretty sad about, there is no great movement of the white businessman to rebuild inside the inner city, and there is no great economic opportunity, unfortunately, for the black man to build businesses in suburbia. I think this is the reality. And I am certainly glad to have the comments of the Congressman about it.

But we made 2,000 loans last year. By changing the criteria, by making it possible for disadvantaged to move into business with less equity. This is a problem that many American bankers were involved in long before I became head of the SBA. But with their help we