Service jobs amount to some 69% of U.S. employment, they bulk larger in the U.S. than abroad. Productivity gains, as a general rule, are harder to obtain than elsewhere in the economy, he said. Furthermore, the hourly output of U.S. workers has long exceeded - in absolute terms - that of workers elsewhere. Consequently, a small productivity gain in the U.S. would match, or even exceed in absolute terms, a far larger percentage increase in some other country.

As for economic growth, the U.S. has performed well since the 1981-82 recession. The U.S. real GNP growth since 1982 has left Europe's economics "in the dust" and even outstripped that of Japan for two years running, which is a relatively new phenomenon.

Table 4: Real Gross Domestic Product, 1982-1986
(percent change)

	Average Annual Change	Actual		Forecast		
	1970-81	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
U.S.	3.4	-2.1	3.1	6.8	4.6	5.1
Canada	5.1	-4.4	3.3	4.8	2.5	2.9
Japan	6.1	3.3	3.0	5.8	4.6	3.6
France	3.9	2.0	0.7	1.8	2.0	2.0
FRG	2.9	-1.1	1.3	2.5	2.7	2.8
Italy	3.3	-0.4	-1.2	2.9	2.7	2.0
U.K.	1.6	2.5	3.2	2.0	2.9	2.8
Smaller European Countries	-	0.8	1.6	2.5	2.5	NA

Source: Graciela Testa-Ortiz, "Europessimism: Factors Underlying Western Europe's Economic Decline", Economic Outlook, March 1985, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.