

Turning to yet another observer of the British scene, Dr. Bloomfield felt that whereas change is what makes the U.S. so exciting, in Britain this by itself is regarded as suspect. People tend to become protective of their slot and fight so that technology does not change. In Britain people will tend to stick with a firm or a profession so that a middle class person graduating from university at, say age 22 does what he or she is going to do for the remainder of his or her whole career. The lack of risk taking, personal as well as professional is very damaging for the country as well as very pervasive.³

Whereas in the U.K. there has always been a certain disdain among the professional elite for industry and commerce, the same does not hold for the U.S. The mood of American business, as Dr. Bloomfield saw it, shifts from a love of bigness to enthusiasm for independent action. The distinction between being part of a big company or being an entrepreneur is less sharp now than what it was. At the same time as individuals set out to build their own businesses, large companies are coming under increasing pressure to innovate. Hence, they depend on leadership in many respects. The proper way of thinking of an entrepreneur is as someone who can put existing resources to more productive uses, be they inside an already existing company or the setting up of new ones.

Dr. Bloomfield felt that the "Silicon Valley Garage" was a misleading symbol of what American entrepreneurship has been all about in the past half decade or so. Much of the contribution made by recent entrepreneurs has been by such long-standing industries as transport, finance and retailing; whereas electronics and biotechnology, for example, are only part of the story. Even in those newer industries, Dr. Bloomfield stated, the "garage people" are a small