the Spence Bill (HR 3505). Nine other labor markets would become eligible for assistance should the current high rate of unemployment continue beyond June 1959, as appears likely. Only one labor market, Salem, is currently not in the substantial labor surplus category though unemployment during the first half of 1958 exceeded 6 percent; it is currently just below this level.

Nor has the southland, one of the faster growing industrial regions in the nation, escaped the national trend. Some areas have now been industrialized long enough so that they, too, have developed the municipal headaches that go with plant obsolescence and shifting markets. In Tennessee, for example, Chattanooga and Memphis show unemployment greater than 6 percent of the total work force, while Knoxville has experienced such a level of joblessness for at least 18 out of the last 24 months. More than a year ago, Senator Gore of Tennessee said:

> "I have seen thousands of my own fellow Tennesseeans, able-bodied men who want to earn a living, standing for hours in the cold to obtain a small allotment of surplus food commodities. That is the danger signal." (Congressional Record, February 5, 1958, p. 1475)

Five months after the Senator spoke, Ford Motor Company closed its assembly plant in Memphis, throwing hundreds of employees out of work. The plant, which was put into operation in 1924, had, according to the Company, become obsolete. Many of the workers thrown on the street, some with upwards of 30 years' seniority, have virtually no hope of finding jobs in the foreseeable future.

THE LIST OF "DEPRESSED" AREAS

Look, if you will, at the major areas that would become immediately eligible for assistance under the provisions of HR 3505, since they have been burdened with unemployment in excess of 6 percent for 18 of the last 24 months. Waterbury, Connecticut; Fall River, Lawrence, and Lowell, Massachusetts; Detroit, Flint, Grant Rapids, and Muskegon, Michigan; Altoona, Erie, Johnstown, and Hazleton, Pennsylvania; Evansville and Terre Haute, Indiana; Providence, Rhode Island; Charleston and Wheeling, West Virginia; and Racine, Wisconsin, are some of the major areas which would be eligible now if this bill were law.

It is in these latter areas where the solution to the problem of industrial distress is so urgently needed. And those listed above are only the major labor market areas listed as depressed. There are twice as many smaller areas afflicted with a depression as there are major markets so designated.

There can be no doubt that the framers of the legislation here under consideration have clearly recognized the nationwide dimensions of the distressed areas problem and are willing to meet it by the application of comprehensive and, we believe, sound economic action.

We recognize also that there are forces in America--and here I refer specifically to the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce--which have consistently opposed any and all constructive social and economic change, and which are highly critical of this measure. Such opposition was not entirely unanticipated since these same groups have opposed such propositions as the abolition of child labor, the federal deposit insurance system, the 8-hour day, the income tax and other important measures which have become part of our economic and social fabric.