In re-reading the dreary record of their refusal to support constructive legislation in the past, one finds their opposition generally based on the dire prediction that enactment of the measure in question "would destroy the free enterprise system." There were variations, but always on the same theme.

These variations took the form of statements that we were about "to kill the goose that laid the golden egg;" "corrupt the moral fiber of the American people;" "discourage thrift;" "regiment the American people;" and so on. If you will check the record of these two organizations you will find them wrong on every major issue to come before the Congress in the last half-century. They are also wrong on this one, which, at least, keeps intact their dismal record of consistency.

But in the testimony offered by representatives of the NAM and the Chamber of Commerce before the Subcommittee on Production and Stabilization of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, which is also considering area redevelopment legislation, you will note that a new variation on the theme has been added. Now, instead of just "destroying the free enterprise system," we find these groups complaining that enactment of legislation such as HR 3505 will "blunt" the efforts to create what is called a "Favorable Business Climate"-- the capital letters are in the original.

We are told only in general terms what that elusive commodity, the "Favorable Business Climate" is, but it does not take a professional cryptographer to determine from reading the statements of these two organizations that the creation of such a climate would be greatly assisted if taxes on business were to be sharply lowered, local and state governments were to be made subservient to the wishes of business, an obsequious labor force were to be available always, hat in hand, ready to accept whatever wages the employer would unilaterally determine, and those who worry about human beings and their problems were to simply disappear.

To carry such a campaign to its logical conclusion would make for a re-creation of the "happy time" when there were almost no taxes levied on business, there was no control of stock speculation, six-year-old children still worked in the factories and mines, federal budgets ran in the millions instead of the billions, no unemployment or workmens compensation programs existed, and almost everyone who "was anyone" owned his own horse and buggy.

While it is easy to laugh at the preposterous proposals offered by such organizations, it has been our experience in Michigan, to cite only one example, that such ill-concealed attempts to turn back the clock of progress are decidedly no laughing matter.

They are harmful and they are destructive. For while these groups argue against remedial legislation on the national level, they also argue against remedial legislation on the local and state levels.

As an illustration of this point, early last month Michigan's Governor Williams proposed the establishment of an "industrial FHA program" at the state level to help promote industrial development. The governor asked the legislature to put on the ballot in the next election, to be held on April 6, an amendment which would guarantee $100,000,000 in loans to promote manufacturing projects and industrial research. This proposal, as you can see, is not unlike, in part at any rate, the legislation this subcommittee is here considering.