On February 8th, 1943, Senator Austin of Vermont and Representative Wadsworth of New York introduced a bill entitled, "A Bill to provide further for the successful prosecution of the war thro a system of civilian selective war service with the aid of the Selective Service System." Only one sentence need be quoted from that measure to show its meaning and that sentence deserves careful reading by every citizen, male and female, between the ages of 18 and 65. It reads: "In order to provide for an adequate supply of workers in war industries and agriculture, and in other occupations, activities and employments which the President shall from time to time determine to be essential to the effective prosecution of the war, and in order to maintain a proper balance between workers and persons in the armed forces...each registrant under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 AND EVERY WOMAN RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES between the ages of 18 and 50 at the time fixed for her registration under the provisions of this Act, except as hereinafter provided, shall be liable to contribute by personal service to the war effort in a non-combatant capacity according to his or her abilities and as selected in accordance with the terms of this Act and regulations prescribed by the President thereunder." If that were enacted into law, men between ages 18 and 65 and women between ages 18 and 50 could be drafted for and assigned to such civilian work as the President might deem necessary to win the war and it raises a question about our whole manpower supply.

THE SQUEEZE IN ON.

As this is written, the U.S. Senate is debating a bill to prohibit the drafting of fathers until after January 1, 1944. The military authorities insist that 1,221,000 additional soldiers and sailors are needed between now and January 1st and that only 775,000 are available and that, therefore, 446,000 fathers must be drafted. Manpower Commissioner McNutt states that an additional 2,600,000 war industry workers are needed before July 1, 1944. The military may need an additional 800,000 between January 1 and July 1, 1944. The airplane industry and shipbuilding plants are clamoring for 600,000 additional workers. Other war industries complain of a shortage of help. Every metropolitan newspaper carries pages and pages of Help Wanted ads. Stores and shops in every large city constantly display signs in their windows: Men Wanted, Women Wanted, Boys Wanted, Girls Wanted. A manpower squeeze lies ahead which will be worse than anything we have yet seen and thus the question continues to arise: "Where is our Manpower?" In a war of such proportions as the one in which we are engaged, not even a nation so large and so wealthy as the United States can afford to waste any and least of all manpower. An effective canvass of all manpower sources will soon have to be made if military and civilian goals are to be met.

SOME OF THE SOURCES

Months ago Congress appointed a committee to investigate available manpower on the Federal payroll. Total number of men and women now in Federal civilian employ is 3,029,483. Of this number more than 840,000 are males between the ages of 18 and 38 who are potentially available for service. A more recent investigation indicates that hundreds of thousands of these are single. What about them? The War Department has 897,450 and the Navy 490,500 civilians on the payroll. Are they all indispensable in that capacity? A Senate committee investigated manpower in defense industries and found that manpower was being inefficiently employed. Here is another source for exploration. A third source would be the displacement of soldiers and sailors in administrative, office, and routine jobs by WAVES, WACS, SPARS and others.

THAT BILL TO DRAFT MANPOWER

Congress would be extremely reluctant to enact legislation giving to the President or to any agency the authority to draft and assign men and women in civilian life to jobs that contributed to the victory effort. But there is a growing belief in certain official circles that such a measure is inevitable and that when the manpower squeeze becomes intolerable, a vigorous effort will be made to have it enacted into law.