#2 The Nation’s Sick Economy (14.1GR)

1. **Industry:** barely made a profit; lost business to foreign competition and technology; suffered from declining demand; the coal declined (of new energy sources)

2. **Agriculture:** After WWI, demand fell drastically, as did prices; farmers could not pay off their debts, causing rural banks to fail; Congress passed federal supports for farm products, but President Coolidge vetoed them

3. **Consumer spending:** credit easily available, Americans piled up a large consumer debt

4. **Distribution of wealth:** Nearly half of American families earned less than the minimum amount needed for a decent standard of living

5. **Stock market:** Many investors engaged in speculation and buying on margin, fueling the market upward and generating great wealth, but only on paper

(14.2 GR)

1. **Employment:** people found themselves out of jobs for years; women, African-American men and Mexican-American men faced discrimination and hostility

2. **Housing:** unemployed people lost their homes, homeless lived in the streets or in shantytowns
3. **Farming:** Farmland exhausted through overproduction was hit with drought and winds, creating the Dust Bowl; dramatic decreases in prices and income; many farmers lost farms and were forced to become tenant farmers or laborers.

4. **Race relations:** competition for jobs sparked existing resentments into open hostility and violence; in 1933, 24 African Americans were lynched; thousands of Mexican Americans left the US voluntarily or were deported.

5. **Family Life:** The Depression strengthened family ties, but also increased family tensions; some men abandoned their families (discouraged by their inability to provide); women pressured to provide for themselves and their families.

6. **Physical health:** Poor and homeless people scavenged or begged for food, turned to soup kitchens and bread lines; poor diet and lack of health care increased serious health problems; malnutrition and starvation common.

7. **Emotional health:** people became demoralized; suicides and mental hospitals admissions increased dramatically.