a circumferential inwardly extending rib around the inner periphery of the outboard edge of each cantilever section.

8. A gear assembly as in claim **6**, further comprising:

the length of each cantilever section being between 25 percent and 70 percent of the length of said merged zone.

9. A gear assembly as in claim **6**, further comprising:

a central axial hole through a substantial portion of said central portion.

10. A gear assembly as in claim **9**, further comprising:

an oil distribution recess located in the outer surface of said outer portion axially coextensive with a portion of said merged zone; and

said central axial hole in fluid communication with said oil distribution recess.

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