War Clothing Problems

INFORMATION FOR VICTORY

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
EXTENSION SERVICE
E. J. Haeferd, Director
Fargo, North Dakota
WAR·TIME CLOTHING
PROBLEMS

PLANNING AND COOPERATION
WILL HELP BRING VICTORY

1. TREMENDOUS amounts of clothing are needed by our armed forces. The War Department says it takes the wool from 26 sheep, or 200 pounds of wool in the grease, to equip and maintain a soldier the first year. To equip an army of from 4 to 6 million men will take more wool than can be produced in the United States during this same period.

2. TRANSPORTATION and labor are serious problems. It takes power, time and energy to make fiber into fabrics, fabrics into garments and to carry these garments to the consumer. Power, time and energy are needed for victory.

3. CONSUMERS are asked to cut down on purchases to prevent inflation. There is a long list of things we are not making for ourselves during the war. We are not making those things because we want factories to use the materials to make war goods. Because of this arrangement some goods are scarce and others are no longer available. Since there is money to spend and less goods to buy, prices have increased.

4. PRICE ceilings have been established in an effort to keep prices of clothing at a reasonable level.

5. RESTRICTIONS on yardage in ready-to-wear garments are now in force, following an order of the War Production Board. The conservation order expects to make possible the production of at least 15 percent more garments out of the same yardage of cloth. Essential details of the order are found inside this folder.

6. HOME DRESSMAKERS are not required to follow these regulations, but will want to do so in order to do their part toward victory.

Prepared by Julia E. Brekke,
Extension Specialist in Clothing.
WAR PRODUCTION BOARD REGULATIONS ON WOMEN'S READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHES

Order No. L-85 issued April 8. This order does not apply to infants' and toddlers' garments (sizes 1 to 4), bridal gowns, maternity dresses, clothing for persons of abnormal size, burial gowns, and robes and vestments required by the rules of religious orders and sects.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON ALL GARMENTS

1. Not more than two articles of apparel at one unit price.
2. No dress may be sold with a jacket, bolero, cape, coat, or redingote at a unit price.
3. No French cuffs on sleeves.
4. No double material yokes.
5. No balloon, dolman, or leg-of-mutton sleeves.
6. No fabrics which have been reduced from normal width or length by all-over tucking, shirring, pleating, except for minor trimmings.
7. No inside pockets of wool cloth.
8. No patch pockets of wool cloth on a lined wool garment.
9. No interlinings containing any virgin or reprocessed wool.

COATS

1. No cuffs.
2. No wool evening wraps.
3. No wool linings.
4. No sleeves cut on the bias.
5. No belt wider than 2 inches.
6. No wool cloth lining under fur trimming.
7. No hem more than 2 inches.
8. Maximum lengths for size 16, with other measurements in proportion to size: 42 inches for a box coat, 43 inches for a fitted coat. This compares with a present average length of 41 to 42 inches for a box coat, and 42 to 43 inches for a fitted coat.
9. Maximum sweeps for size 16, with other measurements in proportion to size: 60 inches for a box coat, and 70 inches for a fitted coat. This compares with present range of 58 to 55 inches for a box coat, and 68 to 80 inches for a fitted coat.

DRESSES

1. No sleeves wider than 14 inches in circumference for a size 16.
2. No hoods, shawls, capes, scarfs, petticoats, overskirts, or aprons made with dress.
3. No belt more than 2 inches wide.
4. No hems of more than 2 inches.
5. Maximum length of size 16 dresses, with proportionate lengths for other sizes: 48 inches compared with present range of 41½ to 44 inches.
6. Maximum sweeps for size 16:
   (a) Rayon and cotton—73 inches. Present lengths vary from 65 to 96 inches.
   (b) Wool (9 ounces and less)—75 inches. Present lengths, 66 to 96 inches.
   (c) Wool over 9 ounces—64 inches. Present lengths, 66 to 96 inches.

SUITS approved and disapproved. Jacket changes from 27-inch length to 25, pockets from patch to set-in, skirt from 96-inch flare to 64 inches.

DRESSES for peace and for war. Dress at right is pleated in clusters with sweep of 78 instead of 136 inches; sleeves are bracelet-length.
EVENING DRESSES
1. No overskirts or aprons.
2. No wool evening dresses.
3. No belt or sash more than 2 inches.
4. No hoods.
5. No slips with dresses of nontransparent materials.
   Present average is 59 to 61 inches.
7. Maximum sweep for all sizes: 144 inches.
   Present average: 130 to 216 inches.

SUITS, JACKETS, AND SKIRTS
1. Length of suit skirts: 28 inches (present range, 26 to 28 inches).
2. Length of jackets: 25 inches (present range, 23 to 27 inches).
3. Sweep of suit skirts made of wool material of 9 ounces and under: 72 inches; made of wool material of over 9 ounces: 64 inches. This compares with present range of 54 to 84 inches.
4. No hem of more than 2 inches.
5. Other restrictions on skirts:
   (a) No matching or contrasting belts.
   (b) No wool lined skirts.
   (c) No evening skirts of wool.
   (d) No hem exceeding 2 inches.
6. Other restrictions on jackets:
   (a) No jackets longer than 25 inches for size 16; present lengths 23 to 27 inches.
   (b) No vents, no bi-sweep, no norfolk styles.
   (c) No bias cut sleeves.
   (d) No cuffs.
   (e) No hoods, capes, scarfs, muffns, bags, vests with jackets.

SLACKS
1. No cuffs.
2. No patch pockets or flaps.
3. No belts.
4. No slacks measuring more than 44½ inches at the bottom; present average bottoms measure from 19 to 22 inches.

BLOUSES
1. No hoods or scarfs.
2. No more than one patch pocket.
3. No blouse larger than 22 inches for a size 32; present average 21 inches to 23 inches.

CHILDREN'S
Same general specifications as on all other garments with proper gradations for lengths and sweeps for the various size ranges.

OTHER GENERAL RESTRICTIONS
1. No pants or leggings with coats in the teen age range, 10-16.
2. No hoods on wool coats.
3. No separate hoods on snow suits.
4. No hats or caps with coats.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE VICTORY PLANNER
1. Take stock of garments on hand. See what can be done to prolong their usefulness.
2. Give away clothing that you do not plan to use.
3. Restyling and remodeling garments should be considered.
4. Keep the family members looking their best by keeping clothing clean and in good repair.
5. Keep rubber garments clean and in a cool, dark place when not in use.
6. Take stock of your skill as a seamstress.
7. Read labels when purchasing clothing.
8. Maintain an intelligent and constructive attitude toward new fabrics which are being offered as a result of the government's program.

REFERENCES: Victory, Vol. 3 No. 15
Rural Family Living, 1942 - Bureau Home Economics U. S. Department of Agriculture.