

*Directed Production.*—In view of the continuing inadequacy of yarn and fabric supplies in 1946, the Board maintained the system of “production directives” designed to secure the largest practicable output of essential garments. Articles under directive during the year included men’s suits and shirts, work clothing, most types of children’s garments, women’s lingerie, and knitted underwear and hosiery for men, women and children. In addition, production directives applied to men’s overcoats in the second half of the year which is the heavy production season. Directives on knitted outerwear for adults and men’s work socks were dropped on Mar. 1, and Apr. 1, respectively, while the women’s rayon dresses program was terminated at the end of June.

The directive program carried over into 1946 was more flexible and informal than that of 1945. In the case of woollens and worsteds, the system was simplified by the abolition of “fabric purchase authorizations” under which manufacturers of garments under directive had received their supplies of woollens and worsteds. The flow of fabrics to manufacturers continued to be guided along the general lines established when the authorizations were in effect.

Rayon garment directives were modified in the latter half of 1946 and the directive on dresses was dropped. The lingerie, children’s wear, and lining fabric directives were continued in respect of total yardage but the provisions for distribution were relaxed somewhat.

Production under the woollen garment directives was generally very good, and was reasonably satisfactory in the case of rayon. The output of woven cotton garments, particularly men’s fine shirts, was restricted by fabric shortages and labour difficulties, and insufficient supplies of the finer count cotton yarns hampered the production of knitted underwear.

The improvement in supplies of woollens and rayons by the end of 1946 made possible the termination of most directives. Garment manufacturers were advised to continue in 1947 the pattern of production and distribution of the previous year. Directives for garments using cotton woven fabrics were also discontinued in view of the termination of United States export allocations of cotton yarns and fabrics. Hosiery and knitted underwear directives are being continued into 1947 in their original form.

*Service Men’s Suit Priority Program.*—The special priority system under which each discharged service man received priority in the purchase of a suit remained in effect throughout most of 1946. In July, demobilization was well advanced and the regulation requiring manufacturers to set aside 35 p.c. of their production for delivery against priority certificates was withdrawn. Priority certificates were issued until Oct. 30, 1946, and retailers and merchant tailors were required to honour them up to Dec. 31, 1946. This priority system was successful in meeting the heavy demands of service men for suits.

*Removal of Style Restrictions.*—With one exception, the few remaining standardization and simplification restrictions respecting clothing were withdrawn during 1946. In March, the regulations limiting manufacturers of women’s and misses’ coats, suits and jackets to 50 styles each season was revoked and, in November, controls governing the length and sweep of garments and eliminating unessential accessories were lifted. The restriction limiting the use of fleece fabrics to essential garments was continued.