THE MERCHANTS LADIES GARMENT ASSOCIATION,
47 West 34th Street.

New York, August 6, 1925.

Governor's Advisory Commission,
George Gordon Battle, Chairman.

Dear Mr. Battle:

Our Board of Directors and membership have given careful consideration to your recommendations. The thought always uppermost in our minds was that of helping to bring about a solution of the problem at hand.

We wish at this time to express to you our deep appreciation of your untiring efforts and of the enormous amount of time you have devoted to your endeavors in behalf of the industry. We, on our part, have at all times made it our policy to give you every assistance possible in this work. We believe that we have not lacked public spirit in our consideration of the problems before the industry as a whole. The members of our association have voluntarily assumed obligations in connection with the labor phases of the industry which no other group of wholesalers and distributors have ever assumed. We desire to accept the recommendations of your Commission, definitely calling your attention to our conception of the manner in which we can continue to function in our businesses.

We are all in accord on the proposition that a clear distinction should be drawn between strictly labor problems on the one hand and strictly trade practices and questions of business administration on the other.

You know that we have gone a long way in our endeavor to support proper labor standards in the industry. We purpose to continue purchasing union made garments only. We purpose to continue our cooperation with the existing machinery set up by the Commission. We would call the attention of the Commission to the fact that such questions as those of net yardage and of trade discounts are purely questions as between buyer and seller and so recognized universally. All such questions can best be adjusted by the groups directly concerned and we shall be glad to proceed in this sense.

In order to make the payments to the Unemployment Insurance Fund due from the contractor as
the employer of labor more regular and certain in the sense of your recommendation #7, we propose to set up a system whereby such payments due from the contractor shall be made in the manner following: Invoices in duplicate of the unemployment insurance charge shall be prepared by the contractor; one of these shall be sent to the member and the other to the Unemployment Insurance Fund; said member, upon receipt of this invoice, shall make payment of the unemployment insurance charge to the fund on behalf of the contractor.

With regard to the Commission's recommendation that the insurance item so paid shall be increased by fifty per cent as against the rate now in force, it is our view that the increase is arbitrary, unequal and based on an inadequate analysis of the situation regarding both the inside shop and the distributor. We wish to state, however, that in order to bring about a settlement of this particular problem we will assume this burden for a period during which we request that the Commission further investigate the subject.

The Bureau of Research, as we conceive it, can be made of invaluable service to the industry in the solution of the labor problems concerning it. As regards trade relations problems that require research, we would suggest that within our own association such work be carried on in close cooperation with such a bureau of research as the Commission may propose for consideration.

We wish again to thank the Commission for its helpful work in behalf of the cloak and suit industry of this city.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MERCHANTS LADIES GARMENT ASSOCIATION

By (Signed) Maxwell Copelof,

President.