

Dear Mother,

I BOUGHT a suit today. Will you forgive me? I know that the first thing you're going to ask is if I really need a suit. I thought and thought about it—I really did. I went through everything in my closet and decided that as far as early spring and next fall are concerned, my wardrobe is pretty depleted. One of the stronger spots in my clothing plan is good dresses for later spring and summer. If it hadn't been for that I never would have decided on a suit — I would have started hunting dresses instead. I realize you can't wear a suit late in the spring, but I think that what I need most is something I can wear for good and semi-good next fall and winter as well as this month and next.

Then, I got to thinking about next year and I figured that no matter what I do — if I come back to school, or get a job, or even if I decide to get married — I can always wear a suit. It seems to me that suits cost enough so that I ought to be able to wear them more than a year to make them worth it.

Besides, Mother, I look good in a suit, and I think that's pretty important.

As I said before, I wouldn't get a suit if I weren't sure I could wear it next year. So I tried to find a versatile one. If I thought I could squeeze still another year's wear out of my old one, I might have bought a dressy suit this time, just for variety, and besides they're so pretty this spring. But my old suit really is in bad shape, so I finally settled on a rather tailored ensemble, one that will carry me through any number of different occasions. Janie, my roommate, didn't think it was quite tailored enough, but she's graduating pretty soon and has her eye on something very professional looking and plain that she can wear nearly every day.

Even so, I think my suit will be practical. The material is hard-finish worsted that should take a lot of wear. It's also 100 percent wool. If I were buying a dressy suit, this wouldn't have meant so much to me, but when I know that I'll be giving my suit hard wear for a long time, I think it's important to check.

One thing about a hard finish — it's difficult to press. But when the pleats are in, they stay in. Remember that old tweed suit of mine? I loved it dearly, and it never did get shiny, but it seems as if I was pressing it all the time. Of course, it never showed spots, so it had its advantages.

When I told the sales woman what I wanted, she had some interesting ideas. She said checks — all sizes and colors — are *the* thing in suits this year. She also suggested that if I wanted a suit with color in it, maybe a bright color with black checks over it would be sufficiently toned down to suit me. The important thing this season I gathered are the *lines* in the suit, and special little features like different collars or unusual sleeve designs. They give that Paris look.

One thing that especially impressed me was the suits with two skirts. They seem to be more popular each year, and especially this year, when little loose jackets with contrasting skirts are so popular. One of the two skirts matches the jacket, and the other is of a harmonizing color and design. They really were



Cheryl McKenna, one of my friends, thinks this fashion-wise checked suit is just about perfect. It's softly-tailored, belted and really versatile. She found it at Tilden's Store for Women in downtown Ames.

worth seeing, even though I finally settled on this perfect gem of a suit that I know you'll approve.

The saleswoman had some little pointers on taking care of my suit, too. She said that many people send their woolen things to the cleaners too often and that so much cleaning and pressing can be hard on the material. She suggested that I try taking little spots off myself, and that when I press my suit, I press just the parts that really need it.

Of course, she added, that can be carried too far, and when a suit really needs cleaning, nothing else can be substituted. She also warned me against letting little rips wait just one more day before I fix them. They have a way of getting bigger, as I guess you know, Mother.

I've made a resolution not to hang my skirts over a hanger any more, too. It helps a pressing job a lot if I hang the skirt from the waist, either on a skirt hanger or with clothes pins from a plain hanger bent up in the middle. Jane loaned me one of her padded hangers for the jacket. She says she wouldn't dream of hanging her own suits on an unpadded hanger because they make creases down the front and around the shoulder pads.

So, you see, Mom, I'm not jumping into this thing with my eyes closed. I know when you see me in my new outfit, you'll be just as happy about it as I am. Even my roommate approves. And it suits me fine.

Love,

Vicky