Jan. 14, 1941. L. FRANK 2,228,624

DROP-SEAT GARMENT

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Fig. 1.

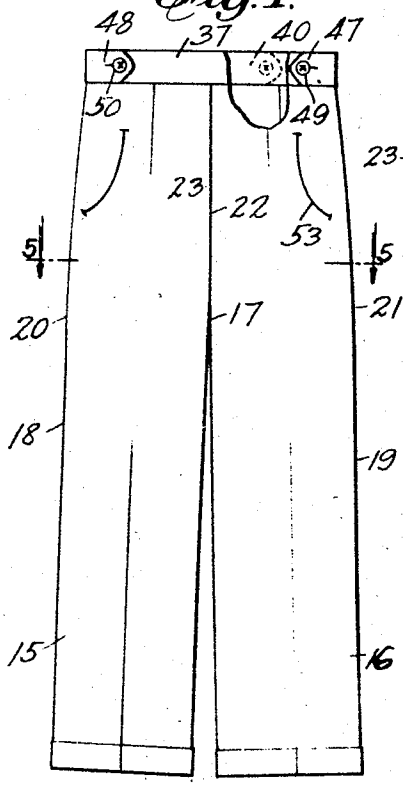


Fig. 2.

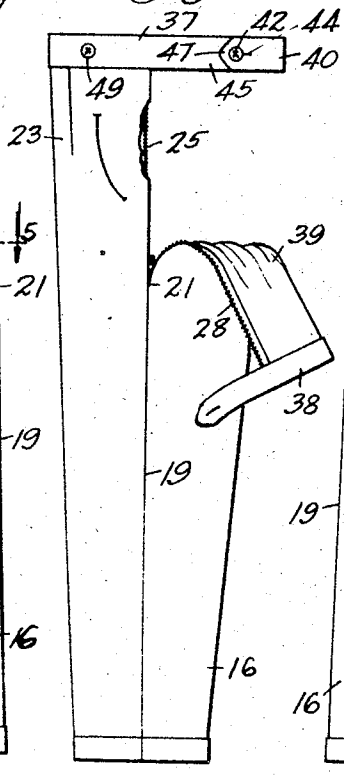


Fig. 3.

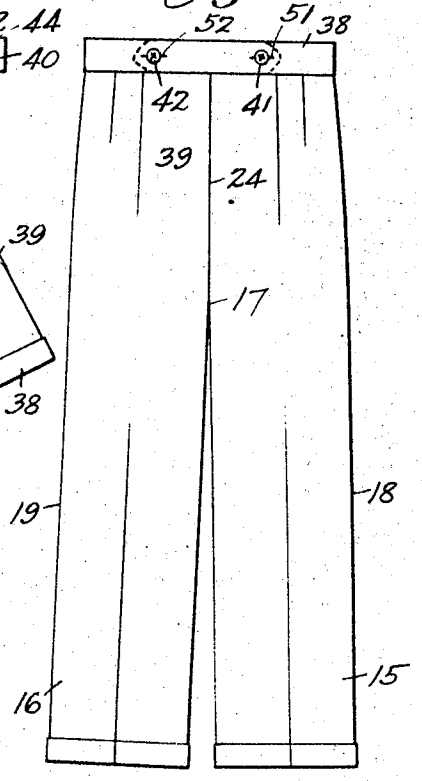


Fig. 4.

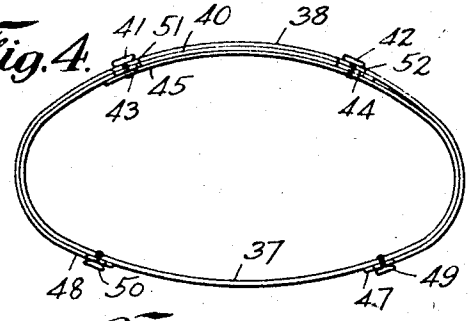


Fig. 5.

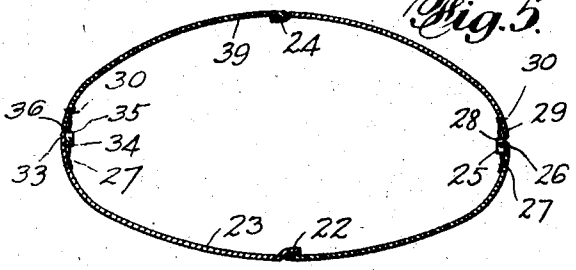


Fig. 6.

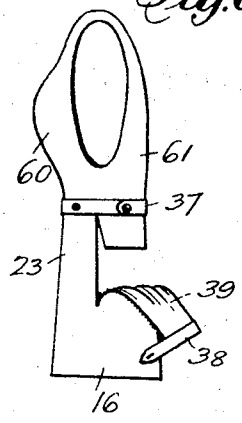


Fig. 7.

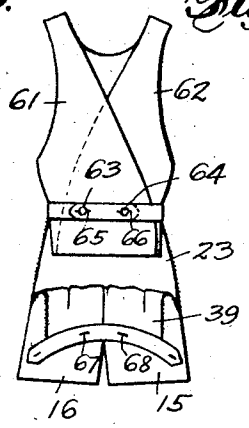
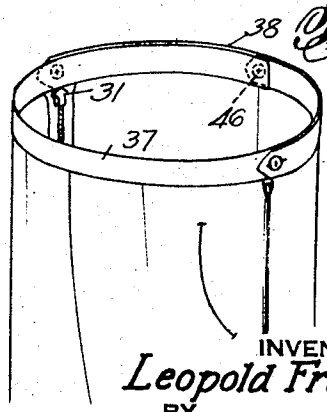


Fig. 8.



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Fig. 9.

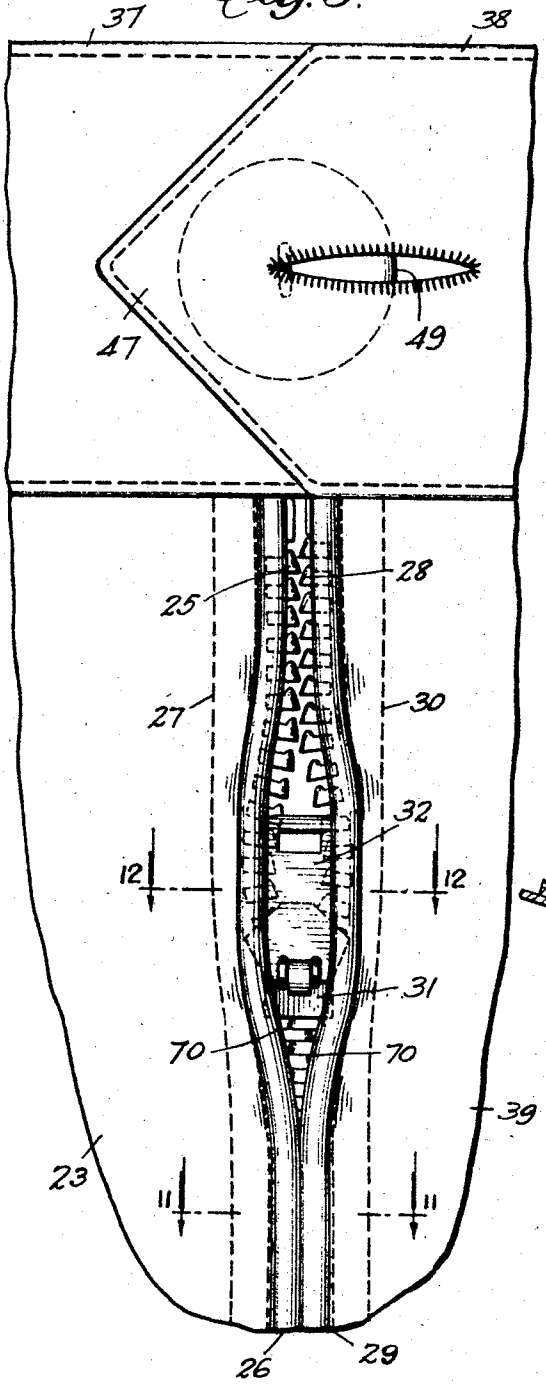


Fig. 10.

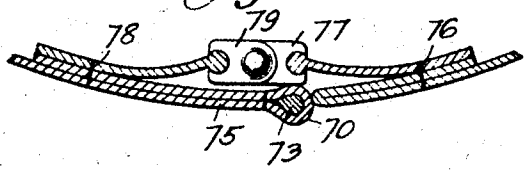


Fig. 11.

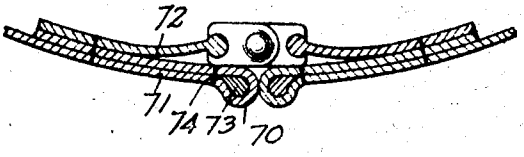
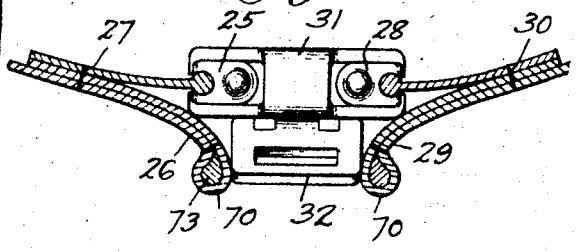


Fig. 12.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DROP-SEAT GARMENT

Leopold Frank, New York, N. Y.

Application October 30, 1939, Serial No. 301,926

4 Claims. (Cl. 2—227)

This invention relates to ladies' garments and particularly to the type known as "sportwear."

Sportwear for ladies has come into extensive use particularly in warm weather and in the warmer climates. Such sportwear may take the form of slacks or playsuits or the like garments, including a covering for the middle and lower parts of the body. Such garments as "slacks" are similar to trousers except that they have no fly opening, while playsuits include abbreviated trousers and an integral upper garment part.

When wearing such sportwear, as when traveling or on picnics and the like, where lavatories are not available, it has heretofore been found difficult without undue exposure of the person to open a particular garment when it becomes necessary to attend to the natural health functions of the body.

My invention therefore contemplates the provision of a garment provided with a drop-seat of such construction which may quickly and easily be disengaged from the remainder of the garment when necessary without exposure of the front part of the body and without the necessity for disrobing or for removing the upper part of the garment or associated garment from the upper part of the body.

My invention further contemplates the provision of a pair of ladies' slacks or the like garment provided with an adequate slide-operated closure at each side of the garment and with means for supporting the garment about the waist of the wearer while the back of the garment below the waist is dropped, said means including an adjustable belt which remains in position about the waist and a beaded or corded covering flap for the slide-operated interlocking fastener preventing any possibility or danger of the slide jamming or catching in the edge of the covering flap and entirely eliminating the delays and embarrassment which might result therefrom.

My invention further contemplates the provision of a garment provided with a waist band which remains in position on the wearer to support the garment while part of the garment is detached from the wearer and with means for supporting the detachable part normally in its operative position, whereby the garment presents the appearance of a similar garment of the usual type.

My invention further contemplates the provision of a garment construction usable in connection with ladies' slacks, playsuits, pajamas and the like articles and wherein the entire seat section down from the waist band may be quickly and easily detached and quickly and easily replaced without exposing any part of the front of the body while the remainder of the garment is nevertheless supported by the waist band.

My invention further contemplates the provision of an improved fastener covering flap in a garment, preventing the slide of a slide-operated fastener from catching or jamming in the edge of the flap, and insuring free and easy or "foolproof" action of the slide at all times.

The various objects of the invention will be clear from the description which follows and from the drawings, in which,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a pair of ladies' slacks to which my invention has been applied.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same showing the seat portion of the garment detached and dropped and showing the waist band in its normal or garment supporting position.

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the slacks shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the same.

Fig. 5 is a horizontal section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a side elevational view of my invention as it appears applied to a playsuit.

Fig. 7 is a rear elevation of the same.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the upper part of a pair of slacks showing a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary side elevation on an enlarged scale of the side edge portion of the garment, showing the catch-proof and jam-proof beaded or corded edge flap for the slide-operated fastener.

Fig. 10 is a horizontal section of a modified form of the fastener-covering flap.

Fig. 11 is a horizontal section taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 9.

Fig. 12 is a horizontal section taken on the line 12—12 of Fig. 10.

In the practical embodiment of my invention which I have shown in Figs. 1 to 5 as applied to a pair of ladies' slacks, the legs 15 and 16 are of the usual construction being united at the crotch 17. At the side edges of the garment, however, the side seams 18 and 19 of the respective legs terminate just below the hips, that is, at a point as 20 and 21, respectively, opposite each other and about in horizontal alignment with the crotch 17.

The front portions of the legs are extended upwardly and permanently secured together at their adjacent inner edges by the seam 22 thereby forming the front extension 23 of the legs constituting a covering for the front mid-portion of

the body of the wearer. Similarly, the rear portions of the legs are extended and joined by the rear seam **24** to form the rear extension of the legs. The pair of adjacent edges of the respective extensions at the sides of the garment are detachably fastened together by suitable slide-operated fasteners, whereby the front extension may be retained in place on the body when the rear extension is detached and dropped. A stringer **25** of spaced fastener elements is secured to the side edge **26** of the front extension as by means of the stitching **27**, while a cooperating stringer **28** is similarly secured to the corresponding adjacent side edge **29** of the rear extension by the stitching **30**. (Figs. 5 and 9 to 12.) The usual slide **31** having the finger tab **32** is mounted on the stringers and serves to open and close the fastener closure in the customary manner.

The other side edge **33** of the front extension carries the stringer **34** cooperating with the stringer **35** on the edge **36** of the rear extension, said stringers being operated by a suitable slide similar to the slide **31**. Each of the stringers **25** and **34** carried by the front extension terminates at its upper end at the lower edge of the front waist band **37**, while the stringers **28** and **35** similarly terminate at the lower edge of the rear waist band **38**.

Each of the waist bands is preferably made of the same material as the legs **15**, **16**, the front extension **23** and the rear extension **39**. The front waist band **37**, however, is not permanently secured to said rear extension **39** but is secured only to the upper edge of the front extension **23** just above the upper ends of the stringers **25** and **34**. Said waist band continues past said stringers in both directions and then extends rearwardly to form two overlapping end portions **45** and **40** (Fig. 4).

The end portion **45** carries two spaced apart buttons **41** and **42** on the rear face thereof, said buttons passing through the correspondingly spaced buttonholes **43** and **44** in the end portion **40** thereby to secure said end portions detachably together about the waist of the wearer regardless of whether the rear extension **39** is dropped or not. In other words, the front waist band **37** serves to support the garment about the waist of the wearer and to maintain the front of the body covered when the rear extension **39** is detached from the front extension and from the waist band **37** and manipulated.

It will be understood that the number of buttons or other detachable securing means between the overlapping end portions **40** and **45** of the front waist band may be varied as desired. For example, in Fig. 8, I have shown the single button **46** carried by the end portion of the front waist band and a single buttonhole on the corresponding overlapping end portion of said waist band, said end portions overlapping only to a slight extent.

The rear extension **39** carries the rear waist band **38** permanently secured thereto at its extreme upper edge, said waist band extending forwardly past the stringers **28** and **35** to form the attaching tabs **47** and **48**. Each of said tabs is provided with a buttonhole respectively engaging the buttons **49** and **50** secured to the front waist band **37**. The rear waist band **38** is also provided with additional buttonholes as **51** and **52** spaced apart correspondingly to the buttons **41** and **42** and cooperating with said buttons to hold the rear extension normally in place.

It will be understood that the various buttonholes are made long enough to permit movement of the buttons therein longitudinally of the waist bands and thereby to adjust the waist band size to some extent when the garment is worn by the wearer. Suitable pockets as **53** may be provided in the front portions of the legs as may be found convenient or desirable.

It will be seen that when the seat or rear extension **39** is to be dropped, this may be done quickly and easily by simply unbuttoning the rear waist band **38** and then operating the slides of the slide-operated fasteners to separate the rear extension from the front extension at the side edges of the garment. To secure the seat in position, it is merely raised and the waist band thereof buttoned on to the buttons provided for that purpose while the slides of the slide fasteners are operated upwardly to close the side edges of the garment and to connect the extensions together. Since the front waist band always encompasses the waist, exposure of the front part of the wearer's body is prevented. It also becomes unnecessary to detach any upper garment part which may be secured to or form an upper continuation of the slacks shown in Figs. 1 to 5.

In that form of the invention shown in Figs. 6 and 7, wherein a playsuit is depicted, the front portion **60** of the upper part of the garment is secured to the front of the waist band **37** up to the stringers **26** and **34**. The back of the garment preferably is made of two unsecured pieces **61** and **62** intended to cross each other or to be overlapped as shown in Fig. 7 and of sufficient length to permit them to be tucked behind the rear part of the waist band **37** and to be detachably secured thereto as by means of suitable buttons as **63** carried by the section **61** and the button **64** carried by the section **62**, said button **64** passing through a suitable buttonhole in the section **61**, and the buttons **63** and **64** passing through the buttonholes **65** and **66** in the rear part of the front waist band and through the buttonholes **67** and **68** in the rear waist band. In this form of the invention, the garment is put on by stepping into the legs thereof with the back sections **61** and **62** out of the way, after which said sections are thrown over the shoulders to the rear of the body and tucked underneath the waist band and secured thereto.

Referring now to Figs. 9 to 12, I have there shown in detail slide-operated closure means for the front and rear extensions of the garment. Said means is so constructed as to make it impossible for the slide thereof to catch upon an edge of the closure or side opening. Great difficulty has heretofore been experienced with slides for interlocking slide-operated fasteners when used on thin fabric such as is employed in dresses or other garments in that the slide frequently catches an edge portion of the covering flap and becomes jammed, making further operation of the slide in either direction difficult or impossible and leaving the garment open at the closure with consequent embarrassment to the wearer.

It is particularly important that the slide-operated closures for such garment parts as drop-seats or the fly of trousers or the like be so constructed as to operate with certainty, speed and efficiency at all times. It is for that reason that I have designed the covering flap for the slide-operated fastener so that the edge thereof is beaded or corded to provide a completely finished, smooth and rounded edge free of projecting loose threads and of such increased thickness that the slide must remain at all times behind

said edge and cannot climb up upon the edge of the flap to catch or jam, or to wedge the edge between the slide and the stringer. The beaded edge flap further provides an ornamental appearance at the edges of the closure and because of the comparative stiffness thereof, as compared to the limp material of the flap, always tends to remain in the position wherein the slide-operated fastener is adequately concealed from view.

To form the covering flap, the material of the garment at the closure is folded on itself to provide an integral edge fold as **70**. Inserted between the two thicknesses **71** and **72** of the material and close to the edge **70** is the elongated cylindrical cord **73**. A line of stitching **74** is made as close as possible to the cord parallel to the bead of circular cross-section thus formed, and serves adequately to hold the cord tightly in place against shifting. The diameter of the flexible cord **73** may be varied as desired depending on the thickness of the material of the garment itself and depending also upon the appearance desired and the sizes of the stringers and slide for operating the fastener.

In Fig. 10, I have shown one covering flap **75** of sufficient width to cover both stringers, the flap being beaded at its edge in the manner just described. In this form of the invention, the edge **70** of the closure is comparatively close to the line of stitching **76** which secures the stringer **77** of one row of interlocking fasteners in place. The stitching **78**, however, for the other stringer **79**, is spaced from the beaded edge **70** a distance greater than the combined widths of the interlocking fastener elements so that said elements may be properly covered.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 9, 11 and 12, both flaps are of identical construction and each extends to a point substantially coincident with the free edge of each corresponding row of fastener elements. Both of the flaps cooperate to cover the fastener elements, said flaps tending to assume the position shown at the lower part of Fig. 9 in substantial contact with the fastener elements owing to the comparative stiffness thereof as compared to the limp fabric from which garments are customarily made.

It will be noted that regardless of how the beaded edges are distorted, it becomes impossible for the slide to catch on said edge during operation thereof and that all possibility of jamming of the slide is consequently eliminated, the thickness of the bead being greater than the combined thicknesses of the material of the flap.

It will further be seen that I have provided a simple though efficient fastener covering structure in a garment which renders the operation of the slide of the fastener sure, quick and efficient regardless of the distorted positions assumed by the edges of the garment closure and that I have provided a structure well adapted to meet the severe requirements of practical use.

While I have shown and described certain specific embodiments of my invention, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself thereto, but intend to claim the invention as broadly as may be permitted by the state of the prior art and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A garment comprising a pair of legs having front and rear upward extensions to cover the mid-portion of the body, a front central seam securing the adjacent edges of the front extensions together, a rear central seam for the rear extensions, a continuous, uninterrupted front waist band permanently secured to and of the same material as the front extensions extending past the front seam in opposite horizontal directions and terminating in overlapping free end parts each extending past the rear seam at the rear of the garment, means including cooperating buttons and button holes on the free end parts detachably securing said free end parts together against the body of the wearer and inside of the hereinafter mentioned rear waist band, said garment being open at each of its side edges from a point just below the waist band to a point opposite the crotch of said legs, a side seam extending from said last-mentioned point along each of the legs to the lowermost end of each leg, and in alignment with said side edges, means for detachably securing together the adjacent side edges in contacting edge abutment and in alignment with said side seam, a continuous, uninterrupted, additional rear waist band on the upper edge of and of the same material as the rear extensions quickly detachable from and attachable to the rear outside face of the front waist band to cover said free end parts and also to cover the parts of the front waist band extending past the side seams, free end parts on the rear waist band extending forwardly of the side seams and having button holes therein, and buttons on the outer face of the front waist band forwardly of the side seams to engage said button holes, said rear waist band having additional button holes to engage the buttons on the overlapping free end parts of the front waist band whereby the rear part of the front waist band remains in place on the wearer when the rear waist band is unbuttoned from the front waist band and the rear extensions are dropped.

2. A garment comprising a pair of legs united to form a crotch, said garment being open at the hip covering portion of its side edges, a front upward extension on the legs, a similar rear extension on the legs, said extensions normally covering the mid-portion of the body of the wearer and each having a central vertical seam therein, a waist band part on and permanently secured to each extension of the same material as that of the remainder of said extension, the front waist band part continuing rearwardly past the side edges of the garment and terminating in free overlapping end portions at the rear of the garment, said end portions constituting a holding means to hold the front extensions in place independently of the manipulation of the rear extension, the rear waist band part continuing forwardly for a limited distance past said side edges and terminating in spaced free ends adjacent the respective side edges, a pair of buttons on the outer face of the front waist band each entering a buttonhole in one of the spaced free ends of the rear waist band to maintain the rear extension normally in place, a button on one of said free overlapping end portions of the rear waist band entering a buttonhole in the other overlapping end portion and also entering another buttonhole on the rear waist band to secure said overlapping ends together and also to maintain the front extension in place on the body and inside of the rear waist band, said rear waist band part normally covering and concealing the overlapping ends of the front waist band part and being removable therefrom on the unbuttoning of said buttons.

3. In a garment having legs and a crotch, a front upper extension of the legs, a rear upper extension of the legs, said extensions being separa-

ble along the side edges thereof, a front waist band on the front extension, said waist band extending rearwardly past the side edges and having overlapping free end portions, a rear waist band on the rear extension having free ends extending forwardly past the side edges, cooperating buttons and button holes on the waist bands detachably securing the free ends of the rear waist band to the front waist band, and additional cooperating buttons and button holes on the waist bands detachably securing the overlapping free end portions of the front waist band together and also to the rear waist band with the rear waist band outside of the front waist band, and thereby completely concealing the rear portion of the front waist band to the rear of the free ends of the rear waist band, and permitting unbuttoning and lowering of the rear extension and of the rear waist band as a unit independently of the front extension.

4. In a garment having legs and a crotch, a front extension and a rear extension each projecting upwardly from the legs, each of said extensions having side edges separable from the corresponding side edges of the other extension, a front waist band on the front extension extending past said side edges and having end portions overlapping at the rear of the garment and detachably securable together to maintain said front extension in place on the body independently of the manipulation of the rear extension, a rear waist band on the rear extension having forwardly extending flaps detachably securable to the front waist band adjacent said side edges, and means at the rear of the garment for detachably securing said waist bands together with the rear waist band covering and concealing the rear portions of the front waist band.

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