STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition : of : VICTOR OUZOONIAN AND HARRY OUZOONIAN : d/b/a HEIGHTS FLOOR COVERING : for Revision of a Determination or for Refund of Sales and Use Taxes under Articles 28 and : 29 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1977. :

Petitioners, Victor Ouzoonian and Harry Ouzoonian, d/b/a Heights Floor Covering, c/o Samuel Goldwasser & Co., 276 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10001, filed a petition for revision of a determination or for refund of sales and use taxes under Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1977 (File No. 25944).

DECISION

A small claims hearing was held before Judy M. Clark, Hearing Officer, at the offices of the State Tax Commission, Two World Trade Center, New York, New York, on August 3, 1981 at 1:15 P.M. Petitioners appeared by Melvin Lantner, Esq. The Audit Division appeared by Ralph J. Vecchio, Esq. (Angelo Scopellito, Esq., of counsel).

### ISSUE

Whether the Audit Division properly computed the markup used in determining sales of installed floor covering by Heights Floor Covering.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 20, 1978, the Audit Division issued a Notice of Determination and Demand for Payment of Sales and Use Taxes Due against Victor Ouzoonian for his liability as a partner in Heights Floor Covering for the period December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1977. The Notice asserted tax due of \$11,531.94 plus penalties and interest of \$4,784.01 for a total of \$16,315.95 as a result of a field audit.

2. Petitioners Victor Ouzoonian and Harry Ouzoonian operated the partnership Heights Floor Covering ("Heights") which was engaged in the retail sale and installation of floor coverings and other accessories. Heights maintained 4 or 5 locations and filed consolidated sales and use tax returns for the periods in issue.

3. On audit, the Audit Division found that Heights did not have sales invoices for verification of its taxable sales; therefore, the Audit Division reviewed Heights' purchase records to determine the various categories of items sold. Using current sales invoices available in November, 1977, the Audit Division determined the following markup percentages:

Mark UpPaints73.06%Scrap Linoleum47.00%Uninstalled Linoleum71.25%Installed Línoleum147.00%

The Audit Division then applied the markups to the appropriate purchases for the audit period and determined taxable sales of \$1,281,962.00. Heights reported taxable sales of \$1,137,728.20 on sales and use tax returns filed. The Audit Division thereby determined additional taxable sales of \$144,150.00 and tax due thereon of \$11,531.94.

4. In its computation of the markup on installed floor covering, the Audit Division failed to include in the cost factor the necessary materials used in the installation such as adhesives, linings and metal stripping. Moreover, purchases of these materials were included in the Audit Division's computation of petitioners' taxable sales. Heights submitted a revised markup

-2-

computation of 112.15 percent considering such materials as a cost factor for the same sales examined by the Audit Division.

5. As a result of a conference, Heights substantiated a loss of inventory totaling \$9,528.47 during a "blackout" which occurred on July 14, 1977. This inventory consequently was not sold. The Audit Division conceded that an adjustment to purchases for such loss was warranted.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A. That the Audit Division properly used its authority within the meaning and intent of section 1138(a) of the Tax Law by using purchases to determine Heights' sales and sales tax due when in fact sales records were not available. That the Audit Division, however, in determining those sales failed to consider all cost factors in computing the markup on installed floor covering as found in Finding of Fact "4". The markup applied to purchases of floor covering installed by petitioners is accordingly reduced to 112.15 percent.

B. That purchases marked up on audit are reduced by \$9,528.47 pursuant to Finding of Fact "5".

C. That the petition of Victor Ouzoonian and Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering is granted to the extent indicated in Conclusions "A" and "B" above; that the above modifications result in no additional sales tax due; therefore, the Audit Division is directed to cancel the Notice of Determination and Demand for Payment of Sales and Use Taxes Due issued March 20, 1978 against Victor Ouzoonian.

DATED: Albany, New York OCT 0 6 1982

STATE TAX COMMISSION ACTINCPRESIDE MISSIONER COMMISSIONER

-3-

# STATE OF NEW YORK STATE TAX COMMISSION ALBANY, NEW YORK 12227

October 6, 1982

Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering c/o Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001

Gentlemen:

Please take notice of the Decision of the State Tax Commission enclosed herewith.

You have now exhausted your right of review at the administrative level. Pursuant to section(s) 1138 & 1243 of the Tax Law, any proceeding in court to review an adverse decision by the State Tax Commission can only be instituted under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Laws and Rules, and must be commenced in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Albany County, within 4 months from the date of this notice.

Inquiries concerning the computation of tax due or refund allowed in accordance with this decision may be addressed to:

NYS Dept. Taxation and Finance Law Bureau - Litigation Unit Albany, New York 12227 Phone # (518) 457-2070

Very truly yours,

STATE TAX COMMISSION

cc: Petitioner's Representative Jack W. Jaffe Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001 AND Melvin E. Lantner Lantner & Ouslander 11 Park Place New York, NY 10007 Taxing Bureau's Representative

## STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering

for Redetermination of a Deficiency or a Revision of a Determination or a Refund of Sales & Use Tax : under Article 28 & 29 of the Tax Law for the Period 12/1/74-11/30/77.

State of New York County of Albany

Jay Vredenburg, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an employee of the Department of Taxation and Finance, over 18 years of age, and that on the 6th day of October, 1982, he served the within notice of Decision by certified mail upon Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian, d/b/a Heights Floor Covering, the petitioners in the within proceeding, by enclosing a true copy thereof in a securely sealed postpaid wrapper addressed as follows:

Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering c/o Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a (post office or official depository) under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

That deponent further says that the said addressee is the petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the petitioner.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of October, 1982.

Genus Pursuant to Tan LAW Section 174

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition	:	
of		
Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian	:	
d/b/a Heights Floor Covering		AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING
	:	
for Redetermination of a Deficiency or a Revision		
of a Determination or a Refund of Sales & Use Tax	:	
under Article 28 & 29 of the Tax Law for the		
Period 12/1/74-11/30/77.	•	

State of New York County of Albany

Jay Vredenburg, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an employee of the Department of Taxation and Finance, over 18 years of age, and that on the 6th day of October, 1982, he served the within notice of Decision by certified mail upon Jack W. Jaffe the representative of the petitioner in the within proceeding, by enclosing a true copy thereof in a securely sealed postpaid wrapper addressed as follows:

Jack W. Jaffe Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a (post office or official depository) under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

That deponent further says that the said addressee is the representative of the petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the representative of the petitioner.

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OATHS NEWSTERN 10 MAX DAW SHOTION 174

#### STATE TAX COMMISSION

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under Article 28 & 29 of the Tax Law for the

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

:

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:

State of New York

Period 12/1/74-11/30/77.

County of Albany

Jay Vredenburg, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an employee of the Department of Taxation and Finance, over 18 years of age, and that on the 6th day of October, 1982, he served the within notice of Decision by certified mail upon Melvin E. Lantner the representative of the petitioner in the within proceeding, by enclosing a true copy thereof in a securely sealed postpaid wrapper addressed as follows:

Melvin E. Lantner Lantner & Ouslander 11 Park Place New York, NY 10007

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a (post office or official depository) under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

That deponent further says that the said addressee is the representative of the petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the representative of the petitioner.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of October, 1982.

CATHS PURSUANT TO TAX LAW. SECTION 114

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STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition

of

# VICTOR OUZOONIAN AND HARRY OUZOONIAN d/b/a HEIGHTS FLOOR COVERING

for Revision of a Determination or for Refund of Sales and Use Taxes under Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1977.

Petitioners, Victor Ouzoonian and Harry Ouzoonian, d/b/a Heights Floor Covering, c/o Samuel Goldwasser & Co., 276 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10001, filed a petition for revision of a determination or for refund of sales and use taxes under Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1977 (File No. 25944).

:

DECISION

A small claims hearing was held before Judy M. Clark, Hearing Officer, at the offices of the State Tax Commission, Two World Trade Center, New York, New York, on August 3, 1981 at 1:15 P.M. Petitioners appeared by Melvin Lantner, Esq. The Audit Division appeared by Ralph J. Vecchio, Esq. (Angelo Scopellito, Esq., of counsel)..

### ISSUE

Whether the Audit Division properly computed the markup used in determining sales of installed floor covering by Heights Floor Covering.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 20, 1978, the Audit Division issued a Notice of Determination and Demand for Payment of Sales and Use Taxes Due against Victor Ouzoonian for his liability as a partner in Heights Floor Covering for the period December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1977. The Notice asserted tax due of \$11,531.94 plus penalties and interest of \$4,784.01 for a total of \$16,315.95 as a result of a field audit.

2. Petitioners Victor Ouzoonian and Harry Ouzoonian operated the partnership Heights Floor Covering ("Heights") which was engaged in the retail sale and installation of floor coverings and other accessories. Heights maintained 4 or 5 locations and filed consolidated sales and use tax returns for the periods in issue.

3. On audit, the Audit Division found that Heights did not have sales invoices for verification of its taxable sales; therefore, the Audit Division reviewed Heights' purchase records to determine the various categories of items sold. Using current sales invoices available in November, 1977, the Audit Division determined the following markup percentages:

	<u>Mark Up</u>
Paints	73.06%
Scrap Linoleum	47.00%
Uninstalled Linoleum	71.25%
Installed Linoleum	147.00%

The Audit Division then applied the markups to the appropriate purchases for the audit period and determined taxable sales of \$1,281,962.00. Heights reported taxable sales of \$1,137,728.20 on sales and use tax returns filed. The Audit Division thereby determined additional taxable sales of \$144,150.00 and tax due thereon of \$11,531.94.

4. In its computation of the markup on installed floor covering, the Audit Division failed to include in the cost factor the necessary materials used in the installation such as adhesives, linings and metal stripping. Moreover, purchases of these materials were included in the Audit Division's computation of petitioners' taxable sales. Heights submitted a revised markup

-2-

computation of 112.15 percent considering such materials as a cost factor for the same sales examined by the Audit Division.

5. As a result of a conference, Heights substantiated a loss of inventory totaling \$9,528.47 during a "blackout" which occurred on July 14, 1977. This inventory consequently was not sold. The Audit Division conceded that an adjustment to purchases for such loss was warranted.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A. That the Audit Division properly used its authority within the meaning and intent of section 1138(a) of the Tax Law by using purchases to determine Heights' sales and sales tax due when in fact sales records were not available. That the Audit Division, however, in determining those sales failed to consider all cost factors in computing the markup on installed floor covering as found in Finding of Fact "4". The markup applied to purchases of floor covering installed by petitioners is accordingly reduced to 112.15 percent.

B. That purchases marked up on audit are reduced by \$9,528.47 pursuant to Finding of Fact "5".

C. That the petition of Victor Ouzoonian and Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering is granted to the extent indicated in Conclusions "A" and "B" above; that the above modifications result in no additional sales tax due; therefore, the Audit Division is directed to cancel the Notice of Determination and Demand for Payment of Sales and Use Taxes Due issued March 20, 1978 against Victor Ouzoonian.

DATED: Albany, New York

OCT 0 5 1982

STATE TAX COMMISSION ACTINCPRESIDE COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

-3-

## STATE OF NEW YORK STATE TAX COMMISSION ALBANY, NEW YORK 12227

October 6, 1982

Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering c/o Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001

. .

Gentlemen:

. .

Please take notice of the Decision of the State Tax Commission enclosed herewith.

You have now exhausted your right of review at the administrative level. Pursuant to section(s) 1138 & 1243 of the Tax Law, any proceeding in court to review an adverse decision by the State Tax Commission can only be instituted under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Laws and Rules, and must be commenced in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Albany County, within 4 months from the date of this notice.

Inquiries concerning the computation of tax due or refund allowed in accordance with this decision may be addressed to:

NYS Dept. Taxation and Finance Law Bureau - Litigation Unit Albany, New York 12227 Phone # (518) 457-2070

Very truly yours,

STATE TAX COMMISSION

cc: Petitioner's Representative Jack W. Jaffe Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001 AND Melvin E. Lantner Lantner & Ouslander 11 Park Place New York, NY 10007 Taxing Bureau's Representative

### STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

for Redetermination of a Deficiency or a Revision of a Determination or a Refund of Sales & Use Tax : under Article 28 & 29 of the Tax Law for the Period 12/1/74-11/30/77. :

State of New York County of Albany

Jay Vredenburg, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an employee of the Department of Taxation and Finance, over 18 years of age, and that on the 29th day of October, 1982, he served the within notice of Decision by certified mail upon Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian, d/b/a Heights Floor Covering, the petitioners in the within proceeding, by enclosing a true copy thereof in a securely sealed postpaid wrapper addressed as follows:

Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering c/o Melvin E. Lantner Lantner & Ouslander 11 Park Place New York, NY 10007

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That deponent further says that the said addressee is the petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the petitioner.

Sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1982.

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/ JTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER CATHE PURSUANT TO TAX LAW SECTION 174

# STATE OF NEW YORK STATE TAX COMMISSION ALBANY, NEW YORK 12227

Mar 29 1982

October 6, 1982

Victor Ouzoonian & Harry Ouzoonian d/b/a Heights Floor Covering c/o Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001

40 Melvin & Septrus Jantnes & Euslander 11 Jank Place Leu Yark, Hy 10007

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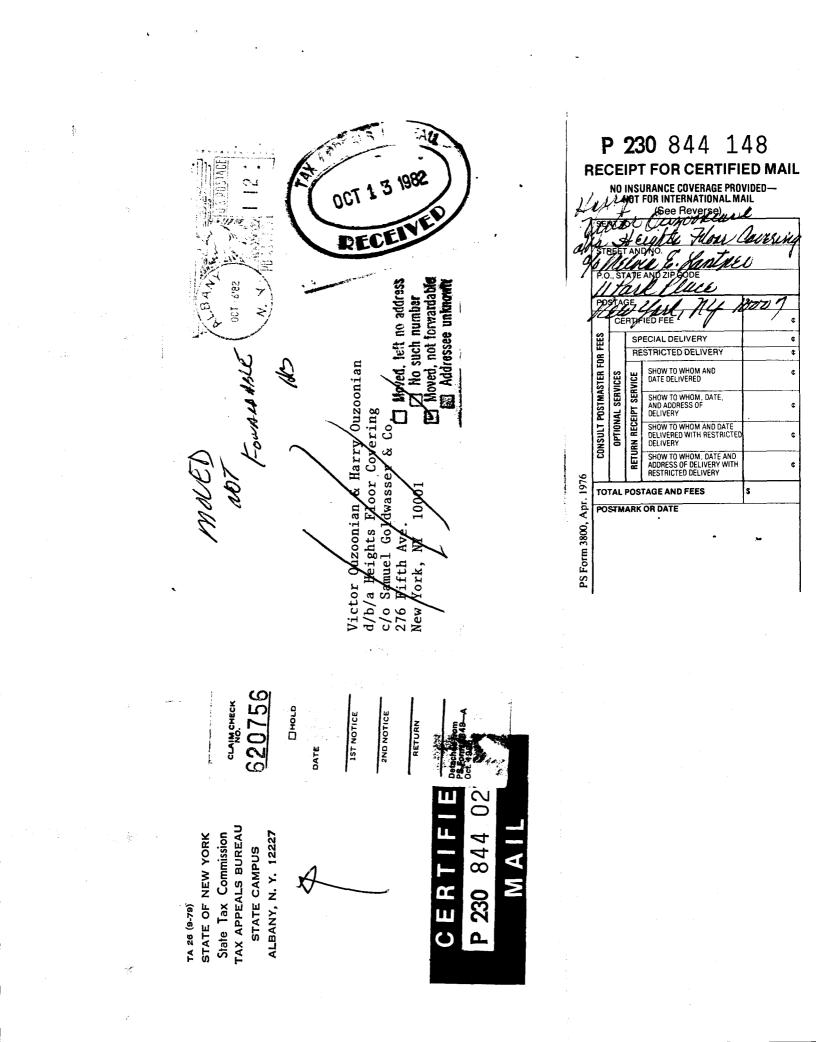
Inquiries concerning the computation of tax due or refund allowed in accordance with this decision may be addressed to:

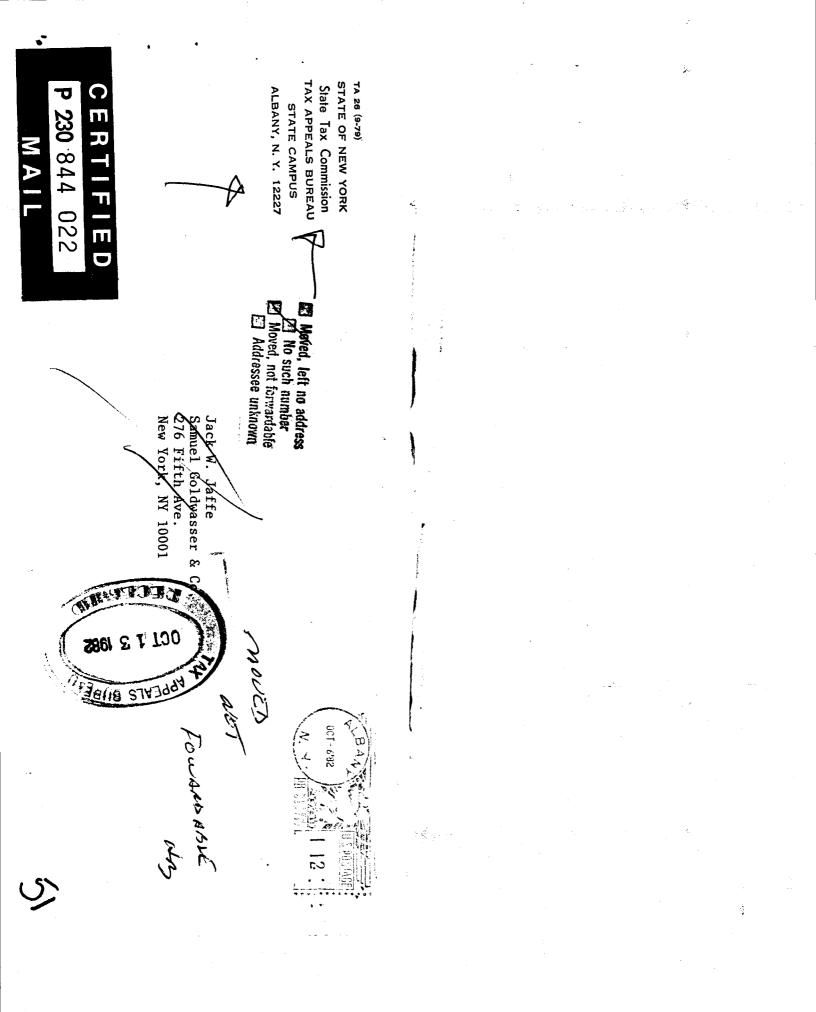
NYS Dept. Taxation and Finance Law Bureau - Litigation Unit Albany, New York 12227 Phone # (518) 457-2070

Very truly yours,

STATE TAX COMMISSION

cc: Petitioner's Representative Jack W. Jaffe Samuel Goldwasser & Co. 276 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10001 AND Melvin E. Lantner Lantner & Ouslander 11 Park Place New York, NY 10007 Taxing Bureau's Representative





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