



GEN. GEORGE C. MARSHALL *speaking to a meeting of the national presidents of the twenty-one largest women's organizations, 13 October 1941.*

the only female representative of the War Department in negotiations with the Bureau of the Budget and in later Congressional hearings.

In further efforts to get the WAAC bill past the Bureau of the Budget, General Marshall made a personal call and sent a highly favorable written report to the effect that "this legislation has great merit." Already overshadowed by the coming events at Pearl Harbor, the report on 25 November 1941 spoke of gaining "valuable time while time is available" in order to develop a small corps in an orderly and efficient fashion.⁷⁴

On Thanksgiving eve General Marshall checked over with Colonel Hildring the measures now completed to make the War Department ready for the gathering storm

and, noting that WAAC legislation was still among the missing, directed him to omit no step to ensure its immediate passage. Colonel Hildring recounted later: "General Marshall shook his finger at me and said, 'I want a women's corps right away and I don't want any excuses!' At that, I displayed considerable energy."⁷⁵

Colonel Hildring's energy was shortly reinforced by that of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. On 11 December, four days after Pearl Harbor, the Bureau of the Budget withdrew its objections.⁷⁶ The way was now clear to ask Congress for the orderly

⁷⁴ Memo, DCofS for Dir Bur of Budget, 25 Nov 41, sub: Proposed Revised Rpt on HR 4906. G-1/15839-10.

⁷⁵ Interv cited n. 66.

⁷⁶ Ltr, Bur of Budget to SW, 11 Dec 41. G-1/15839-10. Also in AG 291.9 WAAC sec 1 pt 1.