Units were now being shipped to the Aircraft Warning Service in the same civilian clothing in which the women had reported for training. It was known that trainees had written of these conditions to friends and relatives.[24]

Director Hobby's attempts at remedial action were somewhat delayed by the fact that, upon her return, she was immediately ordered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to lecture to the Command and General Staff School on the proper administration of Waacs. She had brought back from England much valuable material on this subject, none of which had any effect on the situation. The fact was that the American WAAC was helplessly repeating every one of the British WAAC's mistakes, not because the WAAC did not know them and how to avoid them, but because their occurrence hinged on outside factors over which it had no control.[25] Nevertheless, three days after her return from England, the Director called in the two training center commandants, Colonels Faith and Hoag, for a meeting with Colonel Catron, Colonel Tasker, and herself. Here, in a stormy session, Colonel Faith alleged that the Services of Supply were neglecting the Waacs because they were not military personnel. He had particular reference to his experiences in trying to open the Second Training Center; for example:

Colonel Faith: I feel it is the function of this department [WAAC Headquarters] to get the War Department to understand that the Waacs are soldiers. It looks like I am going to have to open a training center at Daytona without anything. . . . I am not going to lie down because I do not have clothing, but I do sense the feeling that the War Department believes they have an Army, and some Waacs. . . .

Colonel Catron: No, the War Department feels that the Waacs ought to have what they need, but the clothing is not available. . . . I do not believe there is a tendency to say there is an Army and some Waacs; not in the Services of Supply. . . .

Lt. Colonel Tasker: I think there was that condition. . . .

[Colonel Faith goes on to describe how The Services of Supply refused him other equipment normally furnished to Army schools.]

Director Hobby: . . . Let me straighten out the position of this headquarters. You are given a job to do and a time schedule to do it on, and when your equipment does not come through I want to know about it. I will say another thing: you will find a lot of people with a bureaucratic frame of mind that would kill anything new unless you fought for it. It is my job to fight for it.[26]

A number of events therefore occurred on 21 November. On that day the Director stopped all further shipments of uniformless units to the Aircraft Warning Service. She simultaneously directed recruiters to warn recruits to bring enough warm civilian clothing to last for several months. She also requested and received from her Army staff a report on the action they had taken to date. This report showed not only that all Services of Supply staff divisions had concurred before expansion plans had been put into effect, but also that the Quartermaster General's Office had been informed by telephone in June and again in September as soon as WAAC Headquarters had itself learned of the plans. With this report in her office, and also General Madison Pearson, she therefore telephoned General Somervell's Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Wilhelm D. Styer.[27]

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[24] (1) *Ibid.*, and Rpt of 15–21 Nov 42. (2) Account in the possession of Capt. Charlotte Dyer, made available to the author, 31 January 1946.

[25] Folder of British materials in 1942 WAAC files.

[26] Min, Tng Cen Comdts Conf, 14 Nov 42. Folder, Stf Confs, Hobby files.

[27] (1) Ltr, WAAC Hq to all SvCs, 21 Nov 42. SPWA 421 (11–19–42). Also Rpt, 15–21 Nov 42, cited n. 24(1). (2) Memo, Tasker for Dir WAAC, 21 Nov 42. WA 421 (11–20–42).