

requested the Services of Supply to make a formal survey.⁹ This was done at once by Special Services Division, and the results, available in March, were more unfavorable than even the worst expectations. When asked, "If you had a sister 21 years old or older, would you like to see her join the WAAC or not?" the reply was:

No.....	40 percent
Yes.....	25 percent
Undecided.....	35 percent

The percentages were almost identical when men were asked whether they would advise a girl friend to join—only one fourth would. Those who said *no* gave as their reasons: "Women are more help in industry, defense work, farm"; "better off at home"; "Army no place for a woman"; "too close contact with soldiers"; "too hard a life"; "don't like Army life and wouldn't want her to be in anything similar."

When asked, "How do you think a young woman without family responsibilities can serve her country best?" over half designated war industry; others preferred farm or "government work." Only from 10 to 20 percent of different groups named the WAAC; only from 1 to 2 percent the WAVES. These opinions were offered although most had never seen a Waac. Almost none had any idea what the Waacs were to do; about 25 percent said "work for the government," and as much as 13 percent in some groups said "combat duty."

General Somervell expressed considerable alarm at the report and wrote, "This not only creates a severe drag on WAAC recruiting, but also creates an unnecessarily lengthy adjustment period when WAAC personnel reports for duty in the field." He directed that a high-priority film be made for the purpose of influ-

encing soldier opinion, also a handbook to provide soldier information, and that any other media available to the Army concentrate on the problem. General Somervell also, upon the request of General Ulio, sent a letter to the commanding generals of service commands, stating, "Intimations have come to me that our men in the Army have not been too sympathetic to the idea of a women's auxiliary . . . , and urging them to take steps to change the minds of their subordinates."

By early spring, however, the unfavorable attitude was still growing. General Madison Pearson commented on "the wave of letters coming from service men urging their wives, sisters, or girl friends not to join the WAAC." Director Hobby added that the WAAC had received fairly good publicity from press and radio, and only adverse comments on enlistment from men of the armed forces; she added, "WAAC Headquarters had been aware for some time of the attitude of the Army to the WAAC."¹⁰

Also ominous was the attitude of the newly created War Manpower Commission, which in December of 1942 had been given jurisdiction over the Selective Service system. Since one of the Commission's primary missions was to secure 4,000,000 women for civilian industry, its policies toward the womanpower needs of the armed forces from the beginning caused them some concern. The War Manpower Commission had immediately ended Army-Navy recruiting for men within draft age,

⁹ Weekly Rpt, WAAC Hq to CofAdm Serv, 4-9 Jan 43. SPWA 319.12.

¹⁰ (1) Memo, CG SOS for Dir Sp Serv Div SOS, 19 Mar 43. SPAP 320.2 WAAC. (2) Memo, TAG for CG ASF, 25 Mar 43. Vol. I, Gen Policy, WAAC Hist files. (3) Memo, DCofAdm Serv for CofS ASF, 5 Apr 43. SPWA 341 (4-5-43). (4) Memo, Dir WAAC for CG ASF, 7 Apr 43. SPWA 341.