

woman was subsequently discovered to be a well-known prostitute and drunkard with a long police record. When the police chief was asked for an explanation, he replied frankly, "Well, I thought it would get her off our hands and probably do her good too."³⁷

To prevent such occurrences, the Director and The Adjutant General joined in a petition to General Grunert that no woman be accepted without investigation and clearance by the Provost Marshal General's local investigators. The Director stated, "In the present stage of development, with the quality of material under close [public] scrutiny, . . . this office is of the strong opinion that all recruits should be checked . . . for the next 60 days." However, the Chief of Administrative Services and the Provost Marshal General opposed the idea, since such a check was not made for men. Instead, General Grunert informed the Director that, as a concession to the publicity problem, a spot check would be made of one in every ten recruits.³⁸

Inexpert Sales Methods

The appearance of recruiting stations and the manners of recruiters also, in the Director's opinion, frightened off some applicants. To check on this suspicion, she secured authorization for a civilian agency to make an impartial survey.³⁹ This agency sent women employees to recruiting stations in all parts of the United States. Some sat for as much as forty minutes without attention; others were told that they were not needed and were given no informational pamphlets.⁴⁰ Still others were unable to find the Army recruiting stations, which were usually in inaccessible locations, although in searching for the

station one agent found a Navy station where she was most politely treated and showered with literature and enthusiastic accounts of life in the WAVES. One who did find an Army station reported, "We had to go through about 100 selectees, whistling and making friendly remarks."⁴¹ Another gave an account of her experience as follows:

Q: As you entered the recruiting station, what was the general reaction you got?

A: Rather unfavorable, unattractively furnished, and clouded with cigar smoke. Man in uniform looking out the window.

Q: What sort of reception did this person give you?

A: Turned around, gave a brief look at me, hollered "Sergeant!," and started looking out the window again.

Q: Was the recruiter a man or a woman?

A: A man . . . I felt that he thought the campaign was of little importance. Here is a verbatim report of our conversation.

Applicant: I just want to ask some questions about the WAAC.

Sergeant: Are you over 21 and have a birth certificate some place at home?

Applicant: Yes.

Sergeant: OK. There isn't anything you could ask me that isn't in there. (Hands over a pamphlet.) Take it home and when you make up your mind, come back.⁴²

It was the agency's verdict that any business concern selling products to women would shortly go bankrupt if it hid its shops in places where women would not or did not go, or if it employed untrained salespeople who had no knowledge of the

³⁷ Co Comdrs Forum on Discipline. Files of Sch of WAC Pers Adm, OCMH.

³⁸ Weekly Rpt, WAAC Hq to CofAdm Serv, 14-21 Feb 43. SPWA 319.12 (11-9-42) sec 1 (1942).

³⁹ Young & Rubicam.

⁴⁰ Statement by Maj Rice, Min cited n. 33.

⁴¹ Rpt, Young & Rubicam. Min, 6th SvC Rctg Conf, Chicago, 7-8 May 43, SPWA 337.

⁴² *Ibid.*