

gional War Manpower Commission Office."⁸

These areas were extensive, containing perhaps one half the population of the United States. It was also discovered that almost all large cities had been included: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Baltimore, and many others—a matter that was serious to understaffed recruiting offices, since cities were the most easily accessible areas. For example, in New York state the OWI directed, "Recruitment of women WAVES, WACS, SPARS, and Marines is not considered advisable in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, Utica, and [other cities.]" The stoppage was the more inexplicable in that, while affected areas were chiefly those labeled Class I or II—"labor-tight" areas—others were in Class III or IV, where there was supposedly no labor shortage.⁹

The Army at once took issue with this action, informing the War Manpower Commission that it was highly questionable whether the WMC Enabling Act gave the Commission the authority to limit recruitment of women by the armed forces. The executive order that gave WMC control of the Selective Service system directed only that "no male person," 18-38, should be inducted except through Selective Service. The WAC was not mentioned except that its training programs, with all others of the armed forces, should, if using nonfederal educational institutions, be co-ordinated to ensure full use. It did not appear to the Army that female soldiers could be considered "workers" in the passage which required "the hiring, rehiring, solicitation, and recruitment of workers . . . in any plant, facility, occupation, or area" to be done through the United States Employment Service.

In reply to the Army, the WMC retorted that WAC enlistments "shall be subject to the conditions of employment stabilization plans of the War Manpower Commission." It claimed authority not only over publicity media, but also to direct the Army not to send WAC recruiting teams to any area, or to use drill teams, bands, or local advertising, or to set quotas or take any other means of encouraging women to join the WAC. It also added thirty-five more exempted fields from which the WAC could not accept recruits, some of which were described in such broad terms as "industries" and "education services, public and private."¹⁰

The Army and Navy joined in protesting this action. They pointed out that it was extremely shortsighted to draft skilled male factory workers and teach them to type, thus forcing industry to replace them with women who had to learn the factory trade; both armed forces and industry would benefit by allowing a woman typist to enlist so that a skilled factory worker need not be drafted. Since competitive recruiting was admittedly to be deplored, the armed forces suggested instead a giant combined campaign, with resources of all agencies directed toward drawing women

⁸ (1) Memo, Pers Div ASF for Enl Sec, 29 May 43, with incl copy of Memo, WMC for OWI, picked up by Army officer when a New York radio station refused to broadcast the WAAC news release. SPWA 000.77 (1943). (2) Almost identical Ltr from Georgia, SPWA 311.23. (3) Ltr, R&I Serv, 2d SvC to WAAC Hq, 30 Jun 43, saying that the WMC in Newark asked radio stations to hold off all WAAC publicity "owing to the womanpower drive of the WMC." SPWA 000.77 (1943).

⁹ *Ibid.* Also Memo, WAAC Hq for WDBPR, 7 Jul 43, sub: WAAC Rctg, Class I and II Cities [incl telgs and lists of cities]. SPWA 000.77 (1943).

¹⁰ (1) Exec Order 9279. (2) Draft of Ltr, SW to the President USA and to WMC. SPWA 000.77 (1943). (3) Ltr, Dep Chmn WMC to USW, 9 Jul 43. SPWA 341 (1943).