

Theater Wing of the Stage Door Canteen requested WAC representatives and a WAC band for a bond rally. The National Press Club desired to arrange parties for enlisted women.¹⁴

An extremely brief sampling of the list of other organizations corresponding with the Director's Office during this period included the National Education Association, the National Editorial Association, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Legion and other veterans' groups, the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, Zonta International, the Women's Overseas Service League, the American Social Hygiene Association, and the National Federation of Press Women.¹⁵ The national representatives of organizations of this stature, when desiring an interview with the Director or Deputy Director, obviously could not be shunted by the Army to any other source of information even if one had existed, nor could their offers of assistance be rebuffed without at least a hearing or a reply to their correspondence.

Local civic and patriotic groups were in a different category from national representatives; nevertheless, the Director's Office was obliged to reply to their inquiries, even when their requests had to be refused. For example, the Saturday Afternoon Club of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, asked a statement on "What America Means to Me"; the W.I.V.E.S., a group of married women dedicated to urging people to donate money and blood, asked permission to name a chapter for Colonel Hobby; the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce asked that a WAC hospital be located in its city.

Still more difficult to refuse gracefully were hundreds of requests for personal appearances—many of them in connection with recruiting, but the majority for non-WAC patriotic activities such as bond drives, plant security awards, ceremonies to recognize civilian women's volunteer work, and other similar festivities. These were almost all refused "because of the press of military activities" or "because of previous engagements," but nevertheless required a prompt acknowledgment.¹⁶

Liaison With Congress

Liaison with Congress was another delicate and time-consuming duty. Supposedly all such work was done by the War Department offices that handled Congressional liaison for the Army, but it seemed difficult to educate Congress to this belief. Although the WAC was a part of the strength of the Army, the War Department required the Director personally to prepare material for yearly budget hearings, and to attend them at the call of Congressional committees to justify and explain WAC activities separately. It was also necessary for her to answer the daily Congressional letters and telephone calls that asked for a full explanation of WAC policies. These, even if properly addressed to the Legislative and Liaison Division or the Chief of Staff, were ordinarily routed to her for consideration as to possible

¹⁴ (1) Ltr, Secy Joint Army-Navy Committee on Welfare and Recreation, to Lt Col Rice, 21 Apr 44; (2) Ltrs from AWVS; (3) Ltrs from AAUW, 18 Jul 44, and others; (4) Ltr, Exec Secy, Assn of Jr Leagues of America, to Dir WAC, 16 Feb 44. WDWAC 080.

¹⁵ WDWAC 080 (1944). The 080 files (1942-46) are full of letters from such groups.

¹⁶ 1944 files, WDWAC 080, 000.7, and 350.001. Also Ltr, Mrs. William Bacon, President, Veterans Guild of Association of Army and Navy Wives, to Col Hobby, 3 Aug 44. WDWAC 080.