

officer representatives of the Navy Department."¹⁰⁸ Representative Dewey Short of Missouri stated, without revealing his informants, that, "as far as the high officers are concerned, and from major down to second lieutenant, and an overwhelming majority of the enlisted men, they are against the Corps."¹⁰⁹ Representative Leroy Johnson of California explained:

The sad part about this is that we have only heard from a few top bracket men in the Army, and in asking questions I found that there were many, many officers in the Army who are not sure that it is the right thing to do to make these women a part of the Regular Establishment. They have never had a chance to be heard.¹¹⁰

Although Representative Frances P. Bolton said, "It seems to me that we should know why the Armed Services differ so definitely from the heads of services," no committee member made this clear. A member noted, "There are several aspects to this bill that I do not care to discuss here publicly." One representative exclaimed, "If we could only discuss publicly on the floor of the House those things that we discussed behind closed doors!"¹¹¹ The anonymous opposition became so general that early in 1948 Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall reopened the question before the War Council as to whether the armed services should continue to sponsor the legislation. After a study of the "contribution and performance" of the wartime women's services, the position of the heads of the services remained unchanged.¹¹²

On 23 March 1948 the House Armed Services Committee voted, 26-1, to pass only the Reserve part of the legislation. The one dissenting vote belonged to Congresswoman Margaret Chase Smith of

Maine, the only woman member of the committee.¹¹³

Representative Smith offered an amendment to put the Regular Army provisions back in the bill. When this was defeated, she immediately offered another to limit the Reserves to 10 officers and 25 enlisted women on active duty for not more than two years at a time, stating that she intended to make sure that armed forces did not employ large numbers of women "just as you would Regulars without giving them Regular status." This amendment was also defeated, and the bill was passed by the House authorizing only a Reserve.

The matter now took on an especial urgency, with only two months remaining before the date in June of 1948 upon which the wartime Corps, as part of the Army of the United States, must be disbanded because of the expiration of legislative authority for its continuance. Whatever the opinion of the anonymous Army man, the heads of the several services in all of that spring's hearings rallied to the support of the bill in a display of strength unprecedented in Corps history. Those who personally appeared before the armed services committees included Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, Paul, and Brig. Gen. George Ellis Armstrong; Gen. Hoyt S.

¹⁰⁸ *Congressional Record*, 6 Apr 48, p. A2241.

¹⁰⁹ *Congressional Record*, 21 Apr 48, p. 4831.

¹¹⁰ *Congressional Record*, 8 Apr 48, p. 4369.

¹¹¹ Both in *Congressional Record*, 21 Apr 48.

¹¹² Tentative Agenda, Mtg of War Council, 10:00 A.M., 20 Jan 48. Composition: Secys Royall, W. Stuart Symington, and James V. Forrestal; Gens Eisenhower, Spaatz; Admiral Louis E. Denfeld. Copy in WAC files, OCMH.

¹¹³ By tp call, O Dir WAC to author, 23 Mar 48, and *Washington Post*, 24 Mar 48. Also *Congressional Record*, 6 Apr 46, pp. 4233-34. Full debate is in *Congressional Record*, 21 Apr 48, pp. 4806-34. See also *Washington Post*, April 27, 1942, for reporters' impressions.