Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, May 28, 1941, p. 4531

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing this because I feel there is a great need today for voluntary enrollment in a women's auxiliary of the Army.

Overseas during the World War I had a chance to observe the work that women did with our own forces, the women of England, the W. A. A. C., as they were called, who served with our forces; I had a chance afterward in this country to observe the work of physiotherapists and our dietitians and many others in our hospitals. I had a chance to observe the work that the hostesses performed and many others in connection with our Army overseas camps. I had a chance to observe the splendid work that Miss Anita Phipps did in the United States in starting hostesses' schools.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman's time be extended 2 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to observe the very fine survey that Miss Phipps made of women's work that might be performed, to release the men of our Army in case of emergency. I have recently made a study of work being done by the women in England. I have had numerous conferences with men and women who have had experience in national defense and experience in serving with the Army in an effort to have this a very constructive and needed measure. The measure is the result of weeks of study by all these persons and of myself.

This bill is an entirely voluntary measure. It gives the women a chance to volunteer to serve their country in a patriotic way. It gives opportunity to many fine women to enroll who cannot afford to give their time for nothing because it provides pay at the rate of $1 per day, subsistence, quarters, and uniforms. It confers rank as high as colonel to the directors, assistant directors and others who serve in this Women's Auxiliary Corps.

I believe the Army will welcome the assistance of women. Today men are performing duties they should not be performing because they are needed for other services. There are many things I think women can perhaps perform more easily than men—I will not say better, but it has been thought they could.

The proposed legislation is for the purpose of establishing a volunteer corps of women for service with the Army, the need for which was demonstrated during the World War. A similar force is being used in England at the present time with great success.

It is proposed to employ the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in noncombatant service in positions for which women are better qualified than men, and on such other duties to assist in the national defense as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. This will result in an extension of the fields in which intelligent women can be used to release intelligent men for more intensive work in the simplification of the control and care of women serving with the Army, in providing a means to the women of the country to demonstrate their patriotism, in steadying and stabilizing the social and political structure, and in providing a base for the rapid and controlled expansion of this force in case of emergency.

The proposed legislation inaugurates the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps by the appointment by the Secretary of War of a director and such assistant directors as may be necessary, by the establishment of schools to train officer candidates, and by the voluntary enrollment of not to exceed 25,000 women of excellent character, in good physical health, between the ages of 21 and 45 years of age, and citizens of the United States.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps will be organized into companies of 250 women, or into smaller detachments for use in zone of the interior installations. A few examples of positions it is planned to have women of the corps fill are:

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, May 28, 1941, p. 4531 cont.

First. Professional positions such as: (a) Pharmacists, (b) dietitians, (c) physiotherapists, (d) occupational therapists, (e) hygienists, (f) hospital and laboratory technicians, and so forth.

Second. Welfare positions such as: (a) Hostesses, (b) librarians, (c) theater employees, (d) welfare workers, and so forth.

Third. Clerical positions such as: (a) Clerks, (b) typists, (c) stenographers, (d) machine operators, (e) bookkeepers, and so forth.

Fourth. Domestic positions such as: (a) Cooks, (b) bakers, (c) maids, (d) charwomen, (e) stewardesses, (f) mess attendants, and so forth.

Fifth. Mechanical positions such as: (a) Telephone and telegraph operators and supervisors, (b) chauffeurs, (c) instrument repairers, (d) repairers and renovators of clothing, (e) various positions in arsenals and depots, and so forth.

Sixth. Miscellaneous positions such as: (a) Post exchange employees, (b) messengers, (c) laundry workers, (d) gardeners, and so forth.

Members of this organization will be used to fill positions now filled by enlisted personnel of the Army and, in addition, such other positions as may occur in the future for which no funds are available for the employment of civil-service personnel.

The monthly pay of officers, leaders, and auxiliaries of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and the grade of officers and enlisted men of the Army drawing similar pay is shown in the following table:

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps	Base pay	Army grade receiving similar pay
Director	$250.00	Lieutenant colonel (less than 20 years).
Assistant Director	200.00	Major (less than 14 years).
First officer	166.67	Captain (less than 7 years).
Second officer	131.25	Second lieutenant (over 3 years).
Third officer	125.00	Second lieutenant (less than 3 years).
First leader	72.00	Staff sergeant (less than 4 years).
Leader	54.00	Corporal (less than 4 years).
Junior leader	42.00	Private, first class (specialist, fifth class).
Auxiliary	[1] 30.00	Private.

[1] $21 per month for the first 4 months of service and $30 per month thereafter.

Additional monthly pay for specialists of the W. A. A. C.:

Specialist, first class	$15
Specialist, second class	10
Specialist, third class	5

Monetary allowances for rental, subsistence, and travel for members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps when these are not furnished in kind will be provided in accordance with the rates prescribed for officers and enlisted men in the Army of corresponding grade. Suitable uniforms shall be provided to members of the W. A. A. C. and responsibility and accountability of the various individuals and officers shall conform as far as is practical to the laws and regulations pertaining to the Army in like cases.

The Secretary of War shall provide medical and dental services and hospitalization for each member of the corps during the time such member is actually serving her enrollment or appointment, and such services shall conform as nearly as practical to similar services rendered the personnel of the Army. Facilities and personnel of the Army may be used for such services. Members of the corps who are physically injured while on active duty, or any member who dies as the result of such injury, shall be entitled to all the benefits prescribed by law for civilian employees of the United States and the United States Employees' Compensation Commission shall have jurisdiction in such cases.

The corps shall not be a part of the Army but it shall be the only women's organization authorized to serve with the Army exclusive of the Army Nurse Corps.

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, May 28, 1941, p. 4532 cont.

Nurses shall not be enrolled in the corps and nothing in this act shall affect or change the Army Nurse Corps as now established by law.

The corps shall be administered by the Secretary of War through the channels of command of the Army pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may promulgate, and the Secretary is authorized to employ any and all of the facilities of the War Department and of the Army of the United States to carry into effect the provisions of the proposed legislation. The Secretary is further authorized to utilize the services of the United States Employment Service to determine the qualifications of applicants for admission in the corps.

The Secretary of War is authorized to constitute and establish and Air Craft Warning Section of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and is authorized to enroll in this section for service in their local communities women citizens of the United States who volunteer for such service. This section will be for part-time duty only, and will serve on an active status only when so ordered by the Secretary of War.

The Secretary is authorized to constitute and establish additional sections of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps if and when he considers the requirements of national defense make such action desirable. In establishing such additional sections, the Secretary shall prescribe under what circumstances the members thereof shall be provided with quarters subsistence, and travel or payment of allowances in lieu thereof.

The proposed legislation authorizes that there be appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of $14,000,000, for carrying out the provisions of this act. This sum will cover the expenses of establishing and operating the corps during the fiscal year 1942. The estimated continuing yearly cost will be $25,000,000.

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Mr. VAN ZANDT. What I am trying to establish is this: Will these women render military service to their country, or is it a civilian service to their country?

Mr. MAY. I have already told the gentleman that they will be civilian employees and not in the Military Establishment.

Mr. HARE. They will be under military regulation, will they not?

Mr. MAY. Yes.

Mr. HARE. I do not see how you are going to keep them out. I do not see how they can be civilian employees if they are under military regulations.

Mr. MAY. There are lots of people connected with the armed forces not in the Army of the United States. There are thousands of people working down here for the War Department who are civilians and not subject to military discipline, but because of the particular service these women will be called upon to render, they will be subject to discipline under regulations to be provided by the Secretary of War. The women who go into this corps will be subject to military discipline, but they will not be members of the United States Army. They are enlisted on voluntary enlistments for noncombatant service. The additional services for which they will be called will be such services as pharmacists, dietitians, hostesses, librarians, theater employees, welfare workers, post-exchange employees, cooks, stewardesses, and laundry workers. They will replace many enlisted men engaged in performing these specific duties and relieve them for military service in combat units.

Mr. HARE. If the gentleman will yield, are not the women already performing these same functions in the camps and other places of military activity today?

Mr. MAY. They are, but they are not subject to military discipline. For that reason the Army wants to put them where they can direct their activities and control the time of their employment. They want it to be so that a woman cannot just voluntarily get up and walk off a station. It may happen that within the time of a split second some radio communication may pass through a filter station, while someone is off duty. It is necessary that they be subject to discipline in order that the Army may command their services at the time and place they are needed.

Mr. SPRINGER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAY. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. SPRINGER. It will be a fact, will it not, that these ladies who are taken into the service will be subject to military discipline and will also be entitled to receive all the benefits, including pensions or compensation, which a soldier receives?

Mr. MAY. They will receive, under the provisions of the Federal Employees' Compensation Acts, certain stipulated benefits that are equivalent to those received by civilian employees of like status in the Federal service. That will be the compensation they will receive. This is set out in the hearings at length.

Mr. MICHENER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAY. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MICHENER. As I understand it, these women are to be subject to Army discipline?

Mr. MAY. That is right.

Mr. MICHENER. Suppose an enlisted woman violates a rule or regulation, exactly the same as an enlisted man might do. Then she is subject to like discipline. Would she be committed to the guardhouse and punished in that way, or how would the regular discipline be enforced?

Mr. MAY. She would probably be summarily discharged if the offense justified it. If not, of course, the Army authorities would administer appropriate punishment, whatever the circumstances and facts of the case warranted.

Mr. MICHENER. The question of punishment is a very important one. We are passing a bill that will affect many enlisted women. Does the gentleman mean to say there are no rules or regulations now?

Mr. MAY. I did not say there are no rules and regulations.

Mr, MICHENER. Are there?

Mr. MAY. The War Department will provide rules and regulations for the discipline of this corps, exactly as they provide rules and regulations for the discipline of units of the Army, but no doubt regulations for control of ladies will not be so drastic as those for men in the armed forces.

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, March 17, 1942, p. 2582-3 cont.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, almost a year ago I introduced this bill in Congress, on May 28, 1941, but the proposal for an organization of women to serve as noncombatants with the Army of the United States has long been in my mind. So far back as the first World War, when I was in England and France, I saw the need for such an adjunct to our military forces. Great Britain had a well-organized, smoothly operated women's auxiliary during the last war. I was thrown in close contact with them, worked with them myself, and came to appreciate and realize how extremely valuable the auxiliaries are in their performance of tasks for which women are suited or which they can do with equal facility as men. Even then I felt that our military forces should have an auxiliary force—one recognized as official, and one authorized by law to serve with the Army and to be subject to military control. In our first World War we did have women who served and who gave fine service. There were dietitians, physiotherapists, telephone operators—in fact, a number of categories—but their status was vague. Of course, nurses served as a part of our military services. They were not under military control in the strictest sense of the word. They received no compensation of any kind in the event they were sick or injured—and many were. It was a most unsatisfactory arrangement and has been the cause of much dissatisfaction ever since the Armistice. Many Members of Congress have felt as I do, that these women who gave of their service, unselfishly, patriotically, and under conditions comparable to that of men, should have received pay privileges for that service. The knowledge of these heart-breaking cases, the bitterness which some of these loyal, patriotic women felt, was one of the prime factors in my plan for a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

In planning the measure I conferred with many persons who had first-hand knowledge of the splendid women's corps in Great Britain. They were most helpful and their suggestions will in great measure enable us to avoid some of the errors and difficulties encountered in bringing the services up to their present state of perfection.

The auxiliaries, who are comparable to privates in the Army, receive the same pay as an enlisted man, $21 per month for the first 4 months of service and $30 a month thereafter. They are permitted to qualify as specialists and those of the first class would receive $15 per month in addition to their base pay, specialists of the second class, $10 per month additional, and specialists third class, $5 per month additional.

Quarters would be provided for the members of the Corps either on established Army posts, camps, or stations, or when such is not available pay allowances in lieu of these are provided at the rate of $1.15 per day. Similarly, subsistence is furnished, or provided for by allowances when such is not supplied.

The Corps will be a uniformed organization and the Secretary of War is authorized to furnish such uniforms, insignia, and so forth, under the regulations now being used for our Army.

Medical and dental services, hospitalization, and burial allowances in case of death are provided.

In the event of injury in line of duty, or of illness, members of the Corps would be entitled to the same benefits prescribed by law for civilian employees of the United States Government, such jurisdiction to rest in the United States Employees' Compensation Commission.

The measure provides also for the establishment and maintenance of schools for the training of candidates for officers of the Corps. While attending such schools, candidates will receive pay at the rate of $50 per month, and will be furnished living quarters, uniforms, medical and dental services, medicines, medical and hospital supplies, hospitalization, subsistence, and necessary school supplies.

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, March 17, 1942, p. 2582-3 cont.

It is expressly provided that the corps shall not be a part of the Army, but it shall be the only women's organization authorized to serve with the Army, exclusive of the Army Nurse Corps. In order to protect the Army Nurse Corps a clause is inserted in the bill providing that nurses shall not be enrolled in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and nothing in this act shall be constructed to affect or change the Army Nurse Corps as now established by law.

Authorization is given to the Secretary of War to prepare and issue regulations, rules, and orders and to employ any and all the facilities of the War Department and of the Army of the United States to carry out the provisions of the act.

Members of the corps are not subject to court martial, but shall be subject to disciplinary regulations which the Secretary of War may prescribe. The officers of the General Staff feel that discipline can be maintained under such regulations, with the worst punishment being a bad conduct discharge, a discharge without honor.

There has been a tremendous, spontaneous, widespread approval of this proposal. I have received thousands of letters from women in every State of the Union—women who are anxious and eager to serve, who want to enroll at once. Significantly, almost all of these letters are from women who are not seeking the higher positions in the corps, but who wish to enroll as auxiliaries and prove their worth and ability through their service.

Two of these letters follow:

SANTA FE, N. MEX.

DEAR MRS. ROGERS: I see by the papers that you are urging the House to give us a chance to work for America, too. By us, I mean the young women of America who want so much to do war work but are unable to do much, as we have to make our own living. We are young, strong, and anxious to do what we can. I sincerely hope you can make the men see it our way. As you say, the women of England are doing a tremendous job. And so can we.

Sincerely,

——— ———.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 16, 1942.*

Hon. EDITH NOURSE ROGERS,
United States House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR EDITH: You have long known of my interest in and enthusiasm for your projected Women's Auxiliary Corps for the Army; but, as the bill goes up for final vote, I want to tell you that because of what I saw on my recent trip through the West and South, I have come to realize an added importance to your idea—

And this is it:

The women of this country are being thwarted in their great eagerness to help and share in the national war effort, because no national plan for women's activities has been produced. Consequently this tremendous reservoir of ability and usefulness has, to a great extent, remained untapped and undirected. The force is so great, however—the desire to serve and be of use so irresistible—that it has broken through the dam of national indifference and rushed into whatever channels of activity seemed to offer opportunities of service. The result is that in almost every locality I visited I found duplication of effort, misdirected energy and—most regrettable of all—mounting jealousy and ill feeling between the different groups. Furthermore, while certain activities were being greatly overdone, others—and these the most important in our war effort, such as salvage, conservation, planting, and so forth—were, in default of a national program and direction, being almost totally neglected.

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, March 17, 1942, p. 2583 cont.

Everywhere I found confusion, bewilderment, and dismay on the part of women that their energy and ability to help in the war effort were not being recognized and focused in a national program. You know so well how shattering this state of mind is to morale.

Therefore I see in your project a value beyond the assistance the corps will undoubtedly bring to the Army; I see it providing an urgently needed support to the morale of the Nation. It creates the first chance which has been given to American women in this war to share directly in the war effort on a national plan under the direction and discipline of a Government agency.

In this time of great stress, your plan will prove, as England has proved, that the strongest shock-absorber against the strain and worries of war is the steadying force of needed service efficiently performed.

I shall count it a privilege to be helpful in any way in the development and carrying out of your splendid idea.

Yours ever,

HELEN WOODS.
(Mrs. Arthur Woods.)

It is remarkable that little or no opposition has been made to the measure itself. The only protests of a material nature I have received have been from women who are either too young or to old to qualify under the age limitations set forth in the bill. These age limits—21 to 45 years—were set by the War Department officials as being most satisfactory for the needs of the service. There is no age limit prescribed for officers, but undoubtedly the Secretary of War will fix these by regulation.

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, March 17, 1942, p. 2854

Mr. HARE. I can appreciate the patriotism and ambition of the gentlewoman and those favoring this proposition, but in view of the suggestion that these women are to be stationed at airports and other places, where they are to obtain messages, and be watchwomen, so to speak, as against invading enemy planes, I can see that the exposure to which they would be subjected would be out of order and entirely contrary to the treatment that is accorded women in this country. My feeling is this, that if we have young men in the Army who should be relieved of this, that there are probably hundreds and thousands of World War veterans who would like to demonstrate again their patriotism, and who would volunteer to serve in this capacity, and they would be just as efficient as anyone.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. May I say to the gentleman that the War Department, and the man from England, with whom I had a long talk, who started the women on this technical work, say that women are particularly suited for this aircraft warning duty, and as telephone operators. Their voices carry much more clearly than do men's, and they have a certain aptitude for it. We all remember Pearl Harbor, and we all remember that there was no one at the aircraft warning station, at the filter station, a minute and a half before the attack, and if we had had these women there, or if the filter station had been protected, we might not have had the appalling tragedy of Pearl Harbor. Also, as the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. MAY] suggested, a matter of 4 or 5 seconds, or of clipped seconds, makes a great difference in detecting enemy planes coming in, and getting a warning to the planes on the ground and in permitting planes to take off. If that had happened at Pearl Harbor, we might have had a different story today. Also, I may say that the volunteer women in the filter stations have done a marvelous piece of work, but they have not been able to be on the job all of the time, because they must be with their families, and they cannot always be wherever the stations have to be placed, because the aircraft warning units must be mobile. At one aircraft warning station the commanding officer said that they were usually 10 percent short, and another 40 percent irregular, through no fault of the women, because they had illness, or something at home to attend to.

Mr. ELSTON. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Yes.

Mr. ELSTON. The gentlewoman has suggested that women will command the stations in the aircraft-warning service. I think it should be understood that the women are not to take the place of men who are operating the listening devices in the Army.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. No; not take the place of men at the radio detectors.

Mr. ELSTON. No, because those men are highly skilled operators; but the women will be largely stationed near or in big cities, where they will operate extensive warning-service devices for the purpose of detecting planes approaching big cities. They will not take the place of men at active combat posts, who are manning the listening devices and other devices that are in danger zones?

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. No; not at all. I would like to state, to the everlasting credit of the thousands of women I have heard from, not one has mentioned the matter of compensation, as far as the disability allowance is concerned. Some of them have said that they would serve if they only had their quarters, their sustenance, and their clothing. They would give their services gratis. Some have said that they must earn their living, so they must have a small amount of compensation.

[Here the gavel fell.]

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, March 17, 1942, p. 2585

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts.

This measure has been urged repeatedly by the Secretary of War and by General Marshall, Chief of Staff. Letters from them to the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee are as follows:

DEAR MR. MAY: Urgent military business renders it impossible for me personally to present to your committee my recommendations regarding pending legislation to authorize a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

In my opinion this proposed organization would provide a sound and practicable method for meeting military requirements with respect to the employment of women. The percentage of our people employed in essential war industry is steadily increasing and I think it can be assumed that all of our available manpower and womanpower will be required, either in uniform or industry, to win this war. There are innumerable duties now being performed by soldiers that actually can be done better by women. Timely recognition of this situation and legislative action which will enable the Military Establishment to absorb and utilize its proportionate share of the available womanpower will contribute materially to the successful accomplishment of the task before us.

The efficient use of women for noncombatant service with the Army requires systematic organization and training of this personnel under military supervision and control. In order that the available means may be applied to meet the existing military needs I earnestly request that your committee support the legislation now being considered to establish a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Faithfully yours,

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

DECEMBER 24, 1941.

Congressional Record, U.S. House of Representatives, March 17, 1942, p. 2585 cont.

DECEMBER 24, 1941.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. MAY: The War Department recommends the enactment, with certain amendments indicated hereinafter, of H. R. 4906, Seventy-seventh Congress, a bill to establish a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps for service with the Army of the United States.

The bill provides for a volunteer corps of women for noncombatant service with the Army. A similar force is being used in England at the present time and experience both in this war and during the World War has demonstrated that such an organization will provide a practical means for utilizing the services of women where they can be of great assistance in national defense. At the present time there is no shortage of manpower in this country; nevertheless there are a great many types of duty in corps area service commands and in the Aircraft Warning Service for which women are better fitted than men, and the employment of women on such duty would increase efficiency and release men for more intensive work or combat service.

In order that a maximum benefit might be obtained from the proposed auxiliary corps it is essential that its organization and employment be carefully planned and key personnel properly trained before there is urgent need for extensive expansion. This bill provides a means whereby the organization could be perfected in an efficient and orderly manner on a small scale initially and expanded thereafter if required by the situation.

The organization contemplated by this legislation would not replace or conflict with any functions or activities now under the supervision of the Office of Civilian Defense. Under the provisions of this bill the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps would consist of individuals and units substantially as follows: One director charged with the administration and operation of the corps under the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Army; such assistant directors as may be necessary, probably one per corps area service command; one or more schools for training candidates for officers of the corps; and such number of first, second, and third officers, leaders, and auxiliaries as may be necessary to form initially a limited number of companies. A company would normally be stationed at a large post, camp, station, or other zone of interior installation and its personnel given such assignments as clerks, machine operators, cooks and bakers, stewardesses, telephone and telegraph operators, pharmacists, dietitians, hygienists, hospital and laboratory technicians, hostesses, librarians, theater employees, welfare workers, post-exchange employees, and laundry workers.

The proposed organization would include an aircraft-warning section as a component part of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. At present aircraft plotting units, military organizations, require a relatively large number of women volunteers to assist in the operation of filter centers and information centers. These volunteers perform such duties as clerks, plotters, supervisors, teletype, telegraph, switchboard, and telephone operators, and messengers. They are procured through the Office of Civilian Defense, but their organization, training, and service is under military supervision. Approximately 9,700 women would be required to provide a full complement for all filter and information centers of the 28 regions within the United States. Filter and information centers are highly organized installations which cannot function properly with part of the operating personnel absent. The voluntary service of women operators has been satisfactory except for the matter of attendance, over which military authorities now exercise no control. If this bill is enacted, it is proposed to enroll qualified members of this volunteer group who so desire, together with such replacements and additional personnel as may be necessary, in the aircraft-warning section of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. The complete operating force of each filter and information center would then consist of military personnel and members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, thus providing an organization entirely under military control. The auxiliary component would not be required at all times, but could be called to active duty for training or service when necessary.

The size of this proposed organization will depend upon military requirements and cannot be determined at the present time. It is therefore believed that H. R. 4906 should be amended so as to provide a corps with a total strength not in excess of the number authorized from time to time by the President and permit the distribution of personnel by the Secretary of War in the several grades authorized in the bill. A number of changes to facilitate administration have been recommended by the United States Employees' Compensation Commission and are concurred in by the War Department. Sections 15 and 16, as now worded, are believed to be unnecessary, as their purpose can be fully accomplished under provisions appearing elsewhere in the bill.

There is attached hereto a proposed revision of H. R. 4906 showing the changes which are believed advisable and it is recommended that the bill, amended as indicated, be enacted into law.

The additional cost of this legislation cannot be determined at this time. It is estimated at approximately 3,000,000 for the fiscal year 1942 and will probably be less than a military organization of the same size.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this revised draft to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON,
Secretary of War.

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Mr. VAN ZANDT. In view of the service to be rendered by these women, does the gentleman realize, and I know he does, that after the war is over that group of women will come before the Congress of the United States and ask that they be placed on a parity with the men who now make up the armed forces?

Mr. CLASON. Mr. Chairman, I think probably most of the propositions covered by this bill have already been brought to the attention of the House. In discussing the bill, however, we should have in mind that whoever becomes a member of the United States Army through joining this corps will be considered in legislation which is afterward taken up by the House as a veteran of this war. They should be entitled to benefits and emoluments under the present law that may be applied to members of the United States Army, and they will undoubtedly in the future receive consideration as such in any legislation that is brought up. In many cases these women will be called upon to perform duties which are now being carried on by soldiers, and they will relieve those soldiers from those tasks. They are entitled to exactly as much credit as soldiers, because they will be performing their duties under exactly the same hazards. Therefore they should be given exactly the same consideration; and no benefits should be given to men that are not given to women.

Mr. GIFFORD. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLASON. Yes.

Mr. GIFFORD. I understand they are volunteers. Can they resign at any moment?

Mr. CLASON. That is a question I intended to take up, and I think if the gentleman will turn to pages 29 and 30 of the hearings he will be interested in finding out what is the standing of these volunteers under the definition of Col. Ira Swift, of the General Staff Corps. He points out that at least at the present time it is not understood that they will take the same oath that the ordinary soldier in the United States Army takes. In other words, they will take a limited oath, a different oath, and they are not bound to carry on in their positions with this corps if at any time they decide they do not want to. In other words, they can resign at any time they see fit. An officer may refuse their resignation, but if they decide to leave, then Colonel Swift testified they must be permitted to go. They could not prevent them from going, but they would give them a discharge. The only punishment that would be inflicted upon them would be that they would receive this discharge, which they might not want to get. They would be out of the volunteer corps. You will find that the question was raised, supposing they had a ship ready to take these volunteers to Hawaii from a Pacific coast port. When they got the ship all ready, one of the young ladies decided she did not want to go. This is referred to on page 30 of the hearings. If a young lady says, for instance, "I do not want to go to Hawaii," she would probably be told, "Well, that is too bad. You are going to Hawaii anyway." Now, that girl could very easily just walk out, in which case she would get a discharge, probably a discharge without honor, which she does not want. Now, that is the situation. It is my understanding that there is some question as to just what is going to be the position of these volunteers after they get into this branch of the United States Army, for it seems to me if they are going in there and are gaing to assume this position, the Army ought to have somewhat more of a grasp upon them than is indicated by this testimony. I think there is a real question whether or not, once these persons get into the Army, as the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. NICHOLS] pointed out yesterday, regardless of this testimony, they may find that they are in the Army and have got to stay in.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLASON. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. I know very well what a discharge without honor means. That undoubtedly would be given to these women who do not stay in. No soldier wants a discharge without honor. It is a bad discharge. The women will know this when they volunteer. In some instances they may allow them to leave upon request, just as they do in the case of the soldiers.

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Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, from the time of the Molly Pitcher episode of the Revolutionary War up to the present moment no one has ever questioned either the courage or the loyalty or the willingness to sacrifice of any of our women. On that day when her husband fell, Molly stepped forward and served in his place in the battle line. What are we doing now? People throughout the country are aware of the fact that we are in a war, but being here day after day I sometimes doubt whether or not the Members of Congress are aware of that fact. I sometimes doubt whether we want to take the shortest, straightest, the hard road to ultimate victory, whether or not we are not inclined at times to follow a roundabout way, and if this is not one of those roundabout ways.

To me this bill is not a straightforward, plain, unvarnished, undecorated war measure which, put into effect, will increase the effective fighting force of our Army. To me it is a diversion, a detour from the straight and narrow road. Soldiers, whether we like it or not, are killers, that is their profession, that is their business.

Women, thank God, are not killers. It is the soldier's business to go forward, even though his comrade falls wounded by his side. Heartlessly because he must, he leaves that comrade, even though he be his own brother or boyhood friend and goes on. His brother may drop and, because of his wound being unattended, die. The soldier may know this, nevertheless he presses forward. But let an arm or a leg be shot from one of these women, serving with the armed force, and who is there in the Army that will leave that woman to die because of a lack of a few moments first-aid attention? Where is the man fighting in a foreign land with these women in the camps or behind the battle line who will not shudder and hesitate if the tide turns against him and he knows that the women in the armed force are to become the prisoners, the slaves, or worse of the Nazis or the Japs or their island allies?

War is a hard, cruel, killing business and until necessity demands, I cannot bring myself to believe that the efficiency of the fighting men will be improved by women in the fighting force. Moreover, this bill will add a cost to the maintenance of the fighting force out of all proportion to the service rendered. There must be separate and distinct uniforms, there must be separate barracks and certainly the merciless disciplining of the Army must be tempered to the punishment of the few women who will violate army regulations.

Again, is there anyone here, with experience, who believes for one moment that a woman officer, and there will be many of them, will obtain that same unquestioning obedience to her orders from other women in the service which men yield to their superiors?

Women as a class have not been trained to yield unquestioning obedience to what may seem unnecessary or foolish orders. They, and rightly, have come to expect from all men consideration, respect for their feelings, a yielding to their wishes and desires, consideration not given by men to other men. The habits, the beliefs, the standards, which have grown out of years of association and experience, cannot, however willing the spirit or great the desire, be put aside or obliterated by the act of volunteering or by induction into the Army.

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Before this war is over there will a thousand jobs that women desiring to serve their country can fill as well as or better than men. Before we are through, if we are to wage war in the uttermost corners of the earth, we will need our men, and all our men, in the fighting force. Here at home women will be called upon to take over the jobs and perform the tasks which men must leave when they step into armed service.

Just as vital to our success as are fighting men are those behind the fighting lines. There must be food to eat, clothing to wear, guns and ammunition, and all the tools of war. With the task that confronts us, keeping in mind the losses which we have sustained, it must be evident to everyone that the fighting men must be supported and that to do that adequately our manpower alone is not sufficient. Present events indicate that there will be urgent need for women to take the places of men on the farms, in industry, when those men are called to the battle line.

I realize that the women who are to be called to service under this bill are limited in number, but it is the opening wedge, and past experience tells us that a matter of this kind once entered into there is no turning back. Take the women into the armed service, in any appreciable number, who then will maintain the home fires; who will do the cooking, the washing, the mending, the humble, homey tasks to which every woman has devoted herself; who will rear and nurture the children; who will teach them patriotism and loyalty; who will make men of them, so that, when their day comes, they too, may march away to war?

To me this bill seems to strike at and destroy the very foundation—the base—which supports and maintains our fighting men. This war, as all outside of Washington now realize, is not a social event; in it teas, dances, card parties, amusements generally play little, if any, part. This war is a dirty, a bloody, a cruel, a horrifying business, and the spirit of our fighting men should not be weakened by placing at their side women they would unconsciously irresistibly protect and defend at the expense of the military objective.

Is there any service which a woman could render under this bill which she cannot render today without joining the Army?

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOFFMAN. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. The Army has stated repeatedly that it is vital to have women at the filter stations and our air-raid stations.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Well, bless your dear heart, there is no reason why they cannot serve in the filter and air-raid stations now. If the men in the Army need anything, they need the loyal support of the women at home. You take a poll of the honest-to-goodness women at home, the

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women who have families, the women who sew on the buttons, do the cooking, mend the clothing, do the washing, and you will find there is where they want to stay—in the homes. There and when the time comes in the fields and factories, where many are serving today; there and in the hospitals and on the lines of supply and communication—in a hundred places where they can be of more real service than with the fighting men.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOFFMAN. No; I cannot yield. I know the spirit that moves this body today. You ask, am I going to vote for this bill. What else can I do? If I vote against any bill that is requested by the administration, the War Department, the Navy Department, or the Air Corps, I will be classified as one who opposes the war effort. But I venture to suggest that if we could get a secret expression or vote on this bill the Members of the House would turn the bill down today or at any other time it came up, because from what I have heard as Members expressed themselves privately, they do not believe it will actually aid in the war effort. More than one Member has said in substance that he would vote for the bill, but he hoped the Creator would forgive him. Believing as I do that the passage of the bill will hinder, not help—realizing the political retribution and the personal abuse that will follow—putting the welfare of my country first, I must vote against the bill.

[Here the gavel fell.]

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THE WAVES AND THE WAAC'S

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to include as part of my remarks a release made to the press this morning by Secretary of War Stimson, and also a letter from Major General Surles regarding the number of WAAC's who have been returned from Africa.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to stop some of these fantastic and vicious rumors that have been going about regarding the conduct of the WAAC's—and, of course, about the WAVES, the nurses, and other women in uniform—I heard only yesterday that 21 of the WAAC's had been returned from Africa because of misconduct; in fact, I heard that a whole shipload of WAAC's had been returned—there have only been something like 250 WAAC's in Africa and General Surles writes me that only one was returned because she was having a baby. She was married; it was perfectly legitimate. One was being returned for medical attention, for a recurrent physical disability; and 1 was returned because of unsuitable temperament. Only 3 have been returned, and none for improper conduct or improper reasons.

The Congress of the United States should be the first to stop slander upon our patriotic women.

I know the Members of the House will join me in stopping any misinformation or false rumors that are being spread, because if you destroy even by implication the character of the womanhood of America you not only impair the war effort but you destroy America. If you destroy the character of the future mothers of America, you are destroying our entire country.

I invite your attention to the following press release by the Secretary of War and letter from Major General Surles:

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR AT PRESS CONFERENCE, JUNE 10, 1943

My attention has been attracted to sinister rumors aimed at destroying the reputation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. I refer to charges of immorality and particularly to the allegation that the War Department has agreed to the issuance of contraceptives and prophylactic equipment to the members of this corps. I wish to state that these rumors are absolutely and completely false.

The record of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps speaks for itself. Since July 1942 approximately 65,000 fine, patriotic women have enrolled themselves in this corps. And every one of these women who has gone to duty in the field has released a soldier for front-line duty. This is the equivalent of 4 combat divisions already. To appraise that, I remind you that our combat ground forces of the Tunisian campaign consisted of just 4 divisions.

The authorized strength of this corps is 150,000 and since the objective behind the enlistment of the corps is to relieve able-bodied soldiers for combat duty, you can well see that we are speaking now of a sizable increase in our fighting forces.

The enemy naturally is interested in our combat strength—the force by which we shall

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eventually bring him to unconditional surrender. Anything which would interfere with their recruiting or destroy the reputation of this corps and, by so doing, interfere with increase in the combat strength of our Army would be of value to that enemy. The repetition of any unfounded rumor concerning this corps lessens confidence in it and is actually an aid to the enemy.

Furthermore, any reflection on the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is in essence a reflection on the whole of American womanhood; for these 65,000 women are a cross-section of the womanhood of our Nation. They are the teachers who taught your children; the wives, sweethearts, sisters, and even mothers of the men who are today fighting to save our freedom. When they are maligned, when vicious rumor destroys their reputations, the effects could reach into our very front lines, injuring the morale of the Army itself. The story of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is already a fine chapter in the story of American womanhood, and I emphasize the fact that I have made a thorough investigation of these rumors. They are completely false.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 10, 1943.

Hon. EDITH N. ROGERS,
House of Rep esentatives.

MY DEAR MRS. ROGERS: In answer to your query as to the number of members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps who have been returned from Africa, I can report as follows as of this date:

Three members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps have been returned from Africa:

One for pregnancy, married, legitimate.

One for medical attention as result of recurrence of gall bladder ailment.

One unsuitable temperament, incapable of adjustment to conditions.

A. D. SURLES,
Major General, United States Army, Director.

Mr. MAGNUSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

Mr. MAGNUSON. Mr. Speaker, along the lines of the statement made by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, I wish to bring to the attention of the House so that any rumors may be dispelled, that we had occasion a few days ago to have officials of the Navy Department in front of a subcommittee and we inquired into some matters that have been circulating around town.

I want to report to the House, speaking on behalf of the Navy Department, that of the 16,000 enlisted young women of the United States in the United States Navy Auxiliary but 3 have been dismissed from the service because of misconduct. I think this record speaks for itself. As a matter of fact the women in the service are so far below the men insofar as dismissals are concerned that there is no comparison; the rate in our enlisted male personnel is a great deal higher.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and etxend my own remarks.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it would seem unnecessary for any politician, bureaucrat, Army, Navy, or other officer to say anything in defense of the women in or out of our service. All of us had mothers; most of us have wives, daughters or sisters; so what is the sense in giving any publicity to any rumors which question the ability, the loyalty, the virtue of our women? We all know better. Why not let it go at that? Our women are women, American women, regardless of the uniform they wear. They need no defense from anyone.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks in the RECORD at this point.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.