

Levi Pennington

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4-1946

Pennington to the Editor 24 April 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Pennington to the Editor 24 April 1946" (1946). *Levi Pennington*. 36.
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April 24, 1946.

To the Editor:--

Much misconception exists in the minds of many about peace-time conscription, universal military training and similar matters, and the newspapers are not telling the whole story with proper emphasis, many of them not having the facts at hand. Congress has abandoned ^{for the present} the idea of a bill to provide permanent peace-time conscription, and is now playing for an extension ^{of the draft} until after election, giving the impression that this extension is needed for national safety or the maintenance of occupational forces or both.

As a matter of fact, draft extension, which is peace time conscription, is not needed for either purpose. The Conscription News, with figures based on the War Department's own estimates, says that by July 1, 1947, there will be 1,070,000 men in the army by enlistment and without draft extension, the entire number which the army claims is necessary. And the navy is perhaps in even better condition from their own standpoint.

The real purpose of this draft extension is indicated by the statement of General Eisenhower who ^{declared} ~~stated~~ to the Senate Military Affairs Committee that he wanted the draft if not one man was drafted. The Army wants compulsory military training and peace time conscription to build up a military system in the United States like those of the totalitarian countries of Europe.

To many of us this is utterly un-American. Those who favor a system of this sort will, of course, fight for it. But those who are opposed to the system which has twice brought the entire world into war should let our representatives in Washington know of their opposition to peace-time conscription, compulsory universal military training and all such militarizing, nazifying, war producing systems.

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.