

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington writing to the American Friends Service Committee, September 8, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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September 8, 1946.

American Friends Service Committee,  
20 South Twelfth Street,  
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Friends:--

You know something of the community-wide campaign made by a joint committee during the past few months for European relief. I am not sure that I told you just how that campaign came to an end.

One of the leading business men of the town told me -- I happened to be the chairman of the committee that had been conducting the campaign -- that he had been selected by the UNRRA to head a campaign this fall for European relief, as a part of a nation wide effort to raise many millions for the help of the suffering peoples across the water. In view of the assurance that this was to be a nation-wide campaign, and that in Newberg it was to be much more extensive than the campaign we had put on, it seemed wise to our committee to get out of the way of this bigger movement, and so we called our campaign closed, divided up the money that was still in the general treasury, and disbanded our committee. In our public announcement we still made it clear that our general treasurer would accept any funds that were turned in to him before the larger campaign got under way, and we still assured folks that we, the Friends and Brethren, would care for any clothing that was given for relief -- the big box is still in the front window of the Newberg branch of the Portland General Electric, the best place in town.

Now the man who was to head this UNRRA campaign has informed me that he is not going to do anything about the matter, and has so informed the UNRRA. He knew that our committee had disbanded to make way for his campaign, but he wrote the UNRRA that there was a committee already functioning here successfully for relief, and he was going to leave the matter entirely in the hands of this committee -- which had ceased to be. I am sure he is influenced in part by the suggested early end of the UNRRA, and perhaps by the feeling that it would be much harder to raise relief funds this year than it was last.

Another thing that has some bearing on our situation is the fact that Newberg is just organizing for the first time a Community Chest campaign. They intend to have in this budget only those things that are fairly regular from year to year, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Anti-Cancer, etc., and the Newberg share of what is called the State Chest, which includes certain homes for unmarried mothers, the Children's Farm Home maintained by the W.C.T.U., an orphans' home maintained by the Catholics, etc. They think that the whole budget will be in the neighborhood of \$5,000.00, and to include this drive for European relief would overbalance the budget or make the total for relief very small compared with what we raised last spring.

AFSC2.

What I'd like to know first is how serious the need for relief is going to be the coming winter. We shall expect to continue to gather used clothing, and the entire yearly meeting plans to do this, though much of it will go, I have no doubt, through the National Association of Evangelicals. How serious is the food situation going to be in Europe and in Asia? Some folks are thinking that the need for food has been greatly lessened, while some of us suppose that the need is not likely to be reduced greatly before next summer. Who is right? Can you give me some concrete facts that will make this clear?

It seems that if there is a campaign for relief here in Newberg, it will have to be put on through the churches. We cannot make any general soliciting campaign without antagonizing the business men of the city and the others who are interested in this Community Chest campaign, and to attempt a general solicitation would probably do our cause more harm than good, even in a financial way. But the Community Chest leaders are favorable to a campaign in the churches of the city, and in any way it may seem best to put it on outside of the city but in the territory of which Newberg is the immediate center, Springbrook, Dundee, Fernwood, Chehalem Center, Sunnycrest, etc.

What ought to be done, and what can be done are as yet undetermined. I have done nothing here except to consult with the president of the Community Chest, the chairman of the budget committee of that organization (who is mayor of the city and a Friend), and with my wife, who is chairman of our local Friends Service Committee.

If we are to move through the churches, a favorable time to get the ministers of the city interested would be a week from tomorrow. The Ministerial Association does not have regular meetings during the summer, but a special meeting is called for the 16th. If you could get your reply to this letter back to me by air in time for that meeting I should greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.