

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington Writing to Lrl McSherry, October 12, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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October 12, 1946.

Mr. Irl S. McSherry,  
Ladd & Bush Building,  
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Mr. McSherry:--

Your letter of the 8th. has just reached me, as it was addressed to Box 423, Pendleton, Oregon, and had been opened by George Daley (or is it Caley?)

I do not see any way in which your request, as I understand it, could be granted; and perhaps I might just end this letter right there, and save you some time. But if I can make the situation clearer, I should like to do it.

Shortly after my wife and I returned from an auto trip nearly around the United States (we did not get into New England this time, but hit New York, Florida, California and most of the states between) my wife called a meeting of our local Friends Service Committee, of which she is chairman, to see what we could do further for the relief of the suffering peoples across the seas. At this meeting I suggested that we seek to cooperate with the Brethren Service Committee, and perhaps get a movement started that would interest the entire community. The Friends and Brethren met, agreed on a campaign aimed at interesting the entire community, and a committee was appointed, of which I was made chairman, to call a meeting of the representatives of all the churches that would cooperate, the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Wivic Improvement Club, the granges, etc. At this meeting an executive committee was appointed to seek the cooperation of all the religious and civic organizations in a united movement to secure funds and clothing for relief, and again I was made chairman of this committee.

We agreed that it would not be wise to make a man-to-man and house-to-house solicitation, as this had already been done for a number of organizations now included in the Community Chest. But various churches, one of the granges, and perhaps other organizations took up offerings for this cause, and a big box was placed in the office window of the Portland General Electric Company to receive clothing that might be given.

The Friends church took the first offering, and before we were through with our solicitation among Friends we had more than \$1,500.00. Other churches contributed, some of them sending through their own denominational channels, the money not going through the general treasurer. But \$2,675.00 went through the hands of the general treasurer, and went to the relief of peoples in Western Europe for the most part. In addition to the money, there were many hundred pounds of good used clothing contributed, half of it going through the American Friends Service Committee and half through the Brethren Service Committee.

This campaign was pretty well completed, though there were still some receipts coming in, when a business man here in Newberg told me that he had been chosen by the UNRRA to put on a campaign for relief in Newberg, a campaign which we hoped

would reach a larger area that we had reached, since at that time it was supposed that this was to be a nation-wide movement that would do big things, at least that was the way we understood it. And so our committee disbanded, to get out of the way of this larger movement and "let somebody run that can run."

And then, a few weeks ago, this business man informed me that he had decided not to do a thing about the proposed campaign, and had so informed the UNRRA, telling them that there was already a committee functioning here, though he knew that our committee had disbanded. So it appeared that nothing was to be done for these suffering peoples this fall, though reports from both private and official sources stated that the coming winter is to be more grim than the one before.

In view of this situation, and of the fact that the Community Chest was soon to be organized, to make the only house-to-house solicitation of the year, and the further fact that this relief program could not be included in the Community Chest, and if it could have been included in any adequate amount would have thrown the Community Chest budget completely out of balance, I presented the situation to the Ministerial Association, which decided unanimously to appoint a committee to promote such a campaign for relief in Newberg and vicinity, and I was again chosen to head this committee. When we met it was the united judgment that we should not have a general treasurer, aside from the treasurer of the ministerial association, but that each church, each school, if the schools decided to cooperate, and each other organization be encouraged to send its funds through its own channels where these were adequate, with the offer that where it was desired the treasurer of the ministerial association would see that the money sent to him got into the proper channels for relief, which would mean in most cases that it would go through the American Friends Service Committee or the Brethren Service Committee, both of which had adequate organizations for handling relief, both here and overseas.

Well, this fall campaign opened with my taking an offering in the Friends church September 29, where we raised upward of \$1,000.00, with gifts coming in later from members who were not present at that service to bring the total up to nearly or quite \$1,200.00. (This was in addition to more than \$2,100.00 that we had sent during the year that closed September 1, and we had also sent more than a ton of clothing.) But this money was raised specifically for the American Friends Service Committee, and most of it has already been sent there, as the rest will be as it is collected.

The second church to take an offering was the Methodist Church, and their gifts were to go through their own denominational channels, and I suppose to Holland, where they sent the funds contributed last spring, and where they had already sent more than \$500.00 previously that year. (The pastor of the church is a Hollander, and he knows just where their gifts go in that country.)

I think no other churches have taken up their offerings, though I am not sure. And thus far this fall, I think there has been no move through the schools. Our effort here in New-

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berg must be confined to the churches and schools, in order to avoid conflict with the Community Chest, in which we are co-operating -- I have charge of the solicitation in something like 20 blocks in this part of town.

You speak of the foreign relief agencies that are receiving aid this year from the Oregon Chest. Well, the Newberg Community Chest Budget has an item for the Oregon Chest, an item of \$600.00. Is this foreign relief included in that? If not, why not? If there ought to be a contribution to the Oregon Chest, there is an emergency fund of more than a thousand dollars included in this year's Community Chest budget. That is supposed to be for any causes that are approved and that do not for some reason get into the budget at the start.

I suppose that the funds raised through the churches here will go to substantially the same folks that would be aided if the funds went as you suggest. The American Friends Service Committee has its work definitely organized for Austria, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan and Poland, and money sent to them can be designated for other countries, and will be channeled through agencies organized in these other countries.

I am enclosing copy of the first letter that was sent out to the churches by the committee appointed by the ministerial Association. J. Frank Cunningham is pastor of the Christian Church and president of the ministerial association; Emmett W. Gulley is president of Pacific College; Hubert E. Armstrong is superintendent of schools of Newberg; R. A. Feenstra is pastor of the Methodist Church and Oliver E. Porter is pastor of the Free Methodist Church. If under the circumstances you see any way in which your request could be granted, even in a limited way, I shall be glad to confer with you, and if it seems wise have this committee appointed by the ministerial association to meet with you.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.