

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Raymond Wilson, January 22, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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January 22, 1947.

E. Raymond Wilson,
2111 Florida Avenue N.W.,
Washington 8, D.C.

Dear Friend:--

The proposed statement of the legislative policy of the Friends Committee on National Legislation has had my attention, and I feel that on the whole it is a very fine and constructive statement, with very little ~~is~~ which I could disagree -- very little on which I could even raise a question. (If levity could be pardoned in such a serious matter, I should be compelled to express my belief that LEIGLSIATIVE is not the generally approved way to spell LEGISLATIVE -- is it wicked to get a bit of gratification out of the fact that other fingers than mine go astray on the typewriter keys?)

In the matter of food and relief, I am especially gratified at the recommendation that war surpluses be used for relief and rehabilitation -- I've had convincing evidence of the criminal waste of army surplus so vastly needed by those who could readily have been supplied. I am strong for participation in relief by the United Nations, but I could wish that America would make great contributions for this cause, even if we were the only nation in the world to do so. "One Free Day for One Free World" seems to me a very good idea, though I do not see exactly how it is to be promoted by the F.C.N.L.

Under the head of "Protection of the Rights of Minorities", I must confess to some doubts as to federal aid to education. Financing an enterprise seems to convey some right of control or at least direction. If the condition for the receiving of federal aid were made the installation of some form of military training, for instance, military training would be given a tremendous impetus. I know the arguments for federal educational aid, but (if this be treason, make the most of it) they are not as yet absolutely convincing to me. When I look at military training, so largely compulsory, in our land grant colleges, I hesitate to extend the hold of federal agencies on local and state schools.

It seems to me that there could be some clarification of the last paragraph on Page 2. I've worked as hard as I knew how for amnesty and restoration of civil rights of those who have refused to obey requirements of the Selective Training and Service Act which would require them to violate their consciences. Maybe we want to ask pardon for all who have violated any provisions of that act, no matter how the violation occurred, nor with what motive. Unless we want to make it as all-inclusive as that, it seems to me the statement could be made a bit more clear.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.