

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Dr. Peter Odegard, January, 24, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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January 24, 1947.

Dr. Peter Odegard,
Reed College,
Portland 2, Oregon.

Dear Dr. Odegard:--

Your suggestion that we offer comments, criticism or suggestions concerning the folks suggested for the faculty of the coming Institute of International Relations is one that I welcome, only wishing that I felt able to help more than I can.

Perhaps the admission calls for a quotation from Milton, "Not to know me argues yourself unknown", but I'd have to confess that many of the names suggested have no meaning to me except as their ~~names~~^{positions} would seem to indicate that they are men of distinction. Of course Frank Munk, Victor P. Morris, Octavius Sisson, Richard Steiner, Blair Stewart and others that we could name, are personally known to most of us, and some of them have been on the Institute program so that if they were selected it would not be at all in the nature of an experiment. And there are other names that are nationally known, some of them so well known that getting them on our program would seem to be too good to be true.

Personally I should wish most to have Kirby Page and Harry Emerson Fosdick on the faculty if that is at all possible. I have never heard Maurice Hindus, but from what I have read of his writings, I should think that he would be a man who could help greatly in our understanding of Russia.

I have always listened with both pleasure and profit to Norman F. Coleman, who is not named among your prospective speakers, and who may not be able to fit into your program if he should be asked. Another man who I always personally like to hear is Dr. William O. Mendenhall, formerly president of Friends University and later of Whittier, now retired. I have heard appreciation expressed for the work of Dr. Henry J. Cadbury, chairman of the American Friends Service Committee, who was on the Institute program one year. I have no knowledge of the availability of any of these.

Most of the others I have never heard, though I have read some of the writings of a good many of them. The only time I ever heard Archibald MacLeish, he did not impress me greatly.

With the hope that you get a great faculty from the names you already have or may receive, I am

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.