

Levi Pennington

People

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7-3-1947

## Pennington to The White House, July 3, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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### Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Pennington to The White House, July 3, 1947" (1947). *Levi Pennington*. 169.  
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July 3, 1947

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:--

At its session last evening, Newberg Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) instructed me to write you on behalf of the meeting of nearly 500 members, protesting against the proposed compulsory military training and peace time conscription.

This is not being done merely to maintain the traditional attitude of Friends, but because we believe that both these measures are unnecessary, un-American, and tending toward war, not peace. We believe that every necessary end at which these measures aim can be attained on a purely voluntary, American basis. And we believe that either would be a definite step in the direction not of peace but of war. Either would be a definite challenge and would be interpreted as a threat to many other countries, and especially to one.

The report of your committee of investigation should have surprised no one, and it should not, we feel, influence you overmuch. The position already declared by some of the members of this commission would have made any report but one favorable to these measures very startling indeed.

On behalf of Newberg Monthly Meeting of Friends,

Levi T. Pennington,  
Presiding Clerk.