

Levi Pennington

People

7-29-1947

Pennington to Mr. Ross, July 29, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington

Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Pennington to Mr. Ross, July 29, 1947" (1947). *Levi Pennington*. 163.
https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington/163

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the People at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Levi Pennington by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

July 29, 1947.

Mr. R. W. Ross,
Box 535,
New Port Richey, Florida.

Dear Mr. Ross:--

Your letter of the 22nd. has just reached me, and although I have no hope that it will have any real effect, I am replying, since your letter ought to have the courtesy of a reply, since it contains so many pointed remarks.

I had no thought of boasting of my service for the relief of people overseas. and I was familiar with both the scriptures which you quoted. It has always seemed to me that the Townsend advocates I have known were not particularly interested in the suffering world outside our own borders. Your statement about self preservation reminds me of the story of the lawyer who stated in his argument, "We have it on the highest authority that all that a man hath he will give for his life." When the opposing attorney spoke he said he was glad to know what was regarded as the highest authority by his opponent. (It was Satan who said "all that a man hath will he give for his life," and not alone the book of Job but the lives of millions of others have proved it to be the lie that it always was.)

It must be interesting to have such a certainty of ones own wisdom as to class all who disagree as either ignorant or unintelligent. Most of the teachers, most of the ministers, nearly all the economists, most of the lawyers, most of the doctors -- and so on -- are either unintelligent or ignorant; only the Townsendites are both intelligent and informed. How nice it must be to be in such a fine group, such an immensely superior group. The ones I know do not rate so high, but I have your word for it. Personally I have not felt that I was uninformed about the movement, for I have read some of the literature that purported to be an accurate statement of the aims, methods, etc., of the movement at the time. Of course you know it has changed so much that it is much like the boy's one bladed knife which had had three new blades and two new handles, but was still the same old knife.

The last paragraph of your letter (excluding the postscripts) regarding the fool and the seven men who can give a reason leaves me in no doubt as to your application of it, though I confess that I should not make exactly the same application. I do not think that I am condemning without information.

Your clipping, "The Townsend Plan in Brief" does not really tell what the plan is, but for the most part merely makes idle boasts as to what it is claimed that it will do, make more profits for every business, higher fees for all professional men, higher wages and more stable working conditions for everybody, lower prices on consumer goods, without costing the government one penny. And the folks who believe all that are the only intelligent and well informed people in the country.

As I think I remarked in a previous letter, I consider that we shall never be really civilized till we take proper care of the aged, the infirm, the needy. But to make a payment to people of a certain age, irrespective of need, to expect to spend ourselves rich, to talk about everybody getting more money and things costing less though all business income is taxed -- it just doesn't make sense.

We are so far apart in our thinking that I suspect it will do no good for us to continue the discussion of this plan which to you means the cure for our economic ills and to me means the greatest economic ill with which we are threatened.

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.