

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to The American Friends Service Committee, November 25, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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November 25, 1947.

American Friends Service Committee,  
10 South Twelfth St.,  
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Friends:--

J. J. Handsaker, executive secretary for the Oregon Heifers-for-Relief Committee, will probably not be in his office till after daylight this morning, but I do not have to wait till then. He will be writing you today about a situation which is embarrassing our committee, and while he will say it plainly enough, I thought you might like to have a word from me also, as I am first vice president of the organization, and have been working on this "Heifers" job from the beginning of the organization in Oregon.

The situation is that we have over \$15,000.00 on hand, and thus far have been able to send only one carload of heifers, and are unable to get definite information as to when we can send any more, though it looks as if it might be next spring some time. The money has been given definitely for heifers (or goats), and we do not feel that we can alienate it from that definite use when we can so spend it; but we are uncomfortable over the fact that so much money is just lying in the bank while people starve. What we should like to do is to have the money used for food now, but with the privilege of having it back on demand when it is possible for us to spend it for heifers and get them on their way overseas.

It was suggested some weeks ago that the American Friends Service Committee or the Brethren Service Committee or the Church World Service organization might be glad to have the money for immediate use, to be returned on demand. We have information that Church World Service could use it, but for the purpose of providing food for church workers in Asia. Some of our committee would rather see it go to buy food for the suffering populations overseas, even though they know that the workers must be maintained.

We want to go on raising money for relief, chiefly from non-Friends, and among people to whom this more permanent relief appeals. But we do not find it easy to explain why the money is lying in the bank, not even drawing interest, because the central organization of this movement cannot get shipping even for the animals that they have gathered at New Westminster. Indeed we do not understand it ourselves. But it would be easier for us to go on with our money-gathering if we could tell enquirers that the money they had given is actually in use feeding the hungry, and that it will be returned and used to buy and ship heifers as soon as shipping is available.

I have told the committee, in answer to their questions, that money given to the American Friends Service Committee (and that this would apply to the money loaned, if you wished to use this \$15,000.00 temporarily) can be designated for any specific

task you are doing. If designated for relief, it would be used for that; if designated for the purchase of food, for that, and not for overhead or for some project like peace education. If I have not been correct in that statement, I ought to be set right for this is not the only place where I have made such statements.

There is a possibility that we may have a chance to get some heifers on their way before spring. The latest from New Westminster is that they have promise of a ship to carry 170 cattle across to Italy, with a promise that the ship will be available for a year. We do not know all that that means, but if it means that we can use this one ship for trip after trip for a full year, of course it would mean that soon we ought to be shipping more heifers from this section. (The head of the organization has assured us that we can secure the animals here and ship them clear across the continent and still have the entire deal more satisfactory than if we sent the money east and had the heifers bought there at the higher prices that they have to pay for animals of the same class and quality there.)

It was gratifying to learn from the meeting of the committee yesterday that though Church World Service seems the natural place to loan this money, since that organization represents many denominations, yet the committee was more favorable to loaning it to the American Friends Service Committee if you can use it. The record that you have made, not only in this more recent world war but during and following the other one has inspired absolute confidence, and if you can use the money for the winter, the officers of the committee are authorized to send it along promptly.

Well, I said in that first paragraph that you might be glad to have a word from me, and of course you knew it would be like that of the Greek speakers in the Iliad, when one of them "spoke a winged word" that covered the next three pages. This long-winded statement may not tell you a thing that you would not get from Handsaker's briefer letter. I hope you can tell him that you want this \$15,000.00, for the immediate purchase of food which you can get to the starving folks overseas for their consumption this winter, and that at any time when we need it for the purchase of heifers and goats, it can be returned to us. We've spent \$4,000.00 for goats for Japan, and a considerable part of this \$15,000.00 will ultimately go for these same smellifluent dairy animals -- why is a goat?

Tomorrow night we shall be having our Quaker Thanksgiving service in the local church, and we shall stress the giving for overseas relief, though we gave a large share of the gifts that were given at John Hollister's meeting recently. Other churches of Newberg are doing the same thing this year, and some of the money will come through the American Friends Service Committee, though a good share of it will go through denominational channels.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.