

Levi Pennington

People

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Pennington to Gervas Carey, January 2, 1948

Levi T. Pennington

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1000 Sheridan St.,
Newberg, Oregon,
January 2, 1948.

Dear Mr. President:--

Help! Help! Help! And I really need it. I am scheduled to give a talk to the Portland Ministerial Association next Thursday morning, less than six days away, on "The Effect of Universal Military Training on the Colleges."

I tried to get them to get somebody who is now actively engaged in College administration, and they had tried, but could not get the man they tried to get, and so I was elected. And with what authority can I speak? Why, with your authority, if you find it possible to cooperate.

Nobody knows just what the effect will be, I suppose. All you can do is to make an estimate or a guess or whatever you wish to call it. And you'll not be quoted individually, for I can well see that you'd not wish to be on an estimate that because of the brevity of the time had to be so much like a snap judgment. But if you could give 'as good a guess as you can on the following questions, I'd appreciate it no end, and the sooner it can get to me, the more I shall appreciate it.

1. What would be the reduction, in percentage, of your student body if universal military training should go into effect fully with the opening of the next academic year?

2. Aside from the reduction in student body, especially the Freshman class, what other effects would you anticipate?

3. If yours is a co-educational institution, what would be the reduction in the men of the Freshman class, in percentage? in the men of the entire student body?

You know, of course, the little boy's definition of a lie. He got his scriptures mixed a little, and said, "A lie is an abomination to the Lord, and a very present help in time of trouble." Well, I know that a questionnaire is an abomination, but if you can answer these questions with your best guesses it will be a great help to me in this time of trouble.

Sincerely and hopefully yours,

Levi T. Pennington,
President Pacific College 1911-41,
Now President Emeritus.