

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to Roy McCorkle, January 24, 1948

Levi T. Pennington

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January 24, 1948.

Roy McCorkle,  
American Friends Service Committee,  
20 South Twelfth Street,  
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Friend:--

At a recent meeting of the Peace Section of the Oregon Branch of the American Friends Service Committee -- I think that was the time, though maybe it was at some other meeting -- I heard read your letter to the Northwest Institute of International Relations, telling them of the severance of the relations which the AFSC had had with the Institute. So far as I could see, there was not the least suggestion that there had ever been any differences between the two organizations, and there seemed to be no reason for the severance of this relation, unless it was in the statement that the Institute did not need you any more. There was an expression of the finest appreciation of the cooperation of the Institute Committee with the AFSC, and anyone reading the letter would never understand, as it seems to me, why the AFSC should withdraw its sponsorship.

I have not attended all the meetings of the Institute's executive committee, having been in the east at one or two of the sessions when things were at their highest temperature, and being ill at the time of another meeting. But I thought I understood that the AFSC was decidedly dissatisfied because of the lack of cooperation. I understood that the Institute committee had agreed to cooperate in the matter of the aims and purposes of the Institute, in the choice of an executive secretary, in the selection of faculty, etc., and that the Institute Committee had failed to do this, year after year, and that that was why the AFSC withdrew its sponsorship.

There was no occasion to "tear things up" in such a letter, but it seems to me that it would have been better if the letter had at least given a hint that things were not entirely satisfactory, and I know a number of others on the Institute Committee and interested in and working with the AFSC who feel the same way about it. I am not desirous of criticising harshly but in view of the negotiations of many months now, the refusal of the committee to let a representative of the AFSC attend one of its meetings and all the rest, I confess that I do not see how you could have written the letter which you sent to Dr. Odegard. I hope you get a copy of the letter which has gone to the Institute Committee from the Oregon Branch.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.