

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington To John Sullivan, September 23, 1965

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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September 23, 1965.

John A. Sullivan, Executive Secretary,  
American Friends Service Committee,  
814 Northeast Fortieth Street,  
Seattle, Washington. 98105.

Dear Friend:--

It is with deep regret that that I have to register my doubt that we should employ Anuradha Bose Sylvester as Peace Interne. With the admirable qualities attributed to her, I see things that strike me as decidedly unfavorable.

One of them is her religion. With full agreement to the proposition that she has a full right to freedom, I think of Quakerism as a Christian religion, and if the American Friends Service Committee is not fundamentally a Christian organization, I think we all have a right to know that, and if it is a Christian organization, so far as possible I think its representatives ought to be Christian, especially those who are in the field of education such as the peace department.

Another thing that adds to my doubt is the fact that she has a tendency to become angry when she encounters certain difficulties or has to face certain questions that people ask her. One flare-up of temper can do more damage than can be repaired by a lot of good service.

Another thing that it seems to me should go along ways toward disqualifying her for the job here is that she is married, and as it appears she and her husband will be living with most of the continent separating them. If married life means <sup>much</sup> to her or her husband, such a separation would be intolerable except in a case of direst necessity; and if marriage means so little that a life of such separation is endurable, without interfering with her work -- well, it goes far in either case to make a really great objection to her employment. To me husband and wife ought to be together, not thousands of miles apart.

It may be readily understandable to Matt Thompson that she has a particular aversion to American Rotarians who sponsored her being in this country, but it is not readily understandable to me. Indeed it seems to me that Matt Thompson would have a good deal of explanation to do to make that less than a considerable point against this "very attractive person" who "has little trouble in winning her way with people."

With regret that I have to feel as I do about this candidate, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.