

Levi Pennington

People

11-20-1965

Levi Pennington To Mr and Mrs Choate, November 20, 1965

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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

Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Levi Pennington To Mr and Mrs Choate, November 20, 1965" (1965). *Levi Pennington*. 336.

https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington/336

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.

A second thing in which you will be interested is the project on which the local Friends church has started for an extensive job of alterations, remodeling and additions to the church. It would take \$125,000.00 to do all that some want to do, but they have set their stakes for the present at \$65,000.00. I've been away when the matter has been discussed so that I do not know too much about the plans, which are still to some degree tentative. But one thing is the providing of a vestibule of some size for the main northeast entrance, with wider and more adequate stairs; another thing is changing the main auditorium of the church so as to include what used to be called the Christian Endeavor room; then the basement is to be remodeled, to make a bigger assembly room there and to remodel the kitchen; and I think the immediate plans call for substantial additions to the Educational Department, the addition already built as an extension west from the northwest corner of the main building. The raising of \$65,000.00 on top of all the things that we are carrying now will not be an easy task. They have employed a financing organization to handle the campaign, and are to pay them \$4,000.00, whether they raise the money or not. A week from Monday is to be the opening "kick-off" meeting to start the campaign. I was not "sold" on the \$125,000.00 proposition, and I can't say that I see the need of all that is being proposed now, but I have no plan to oppose it. But if they expect me to sign a pledge for \$1,000.00 and tie myself up for a number of years ahead, I think they'll be disappointed.

Now if we were in the situation of the First Friends Church in Portland, it would be different. Dr. Harlan D. Ong, a graduate of the college in 1896, who died last year, left that church a million and a half dollars, but with plenty of strings on the bequest. They cannot touch the principal, and cannot use any of the income for education nor for foreign missions, and there are other restrictions. But the income on that much money puts them on easy street as far as local expenses are concerned. (And it will be a terribly deadening influence if they ease up on their own financial stewardship. I understand they are making special plans to prevent this sort of disaster. They could find meetings in the east that were deadened if not completely killed by the endowments that have enabled the meeting to carry on with little financial effort.)

You probably keep informed as to world affairs. The war in Viet Nam gets worse, and what it will eventually lead to I think no man on earth can know, though many can conjecture. A thing that concerns the United States at home is the influx that is expected to start December 1, that is supposed to bring from 200,000 to 300,000 Cuban refugees to this country. It will be the older folks and the women and children; men of military age will not be permitted to leave the island. All the church and other interested agencies are being spurred to action to care for these hundreds of thousands in addition to the many thousands who have already escaped from the island and are in need of rehabilitation. The United States government is ready to pay transportation for these folks to their new places of residence, and to provide maintenance until they can get jobs and become self supporting.

But our Refugee Committee is rather more interested in refugees farther afield; refugees in Europe and Asia and Africa, totaling millions, and most of them in wretched detention camps, forgotten and hopeless. We have helped a German family of five

to get to Oregon and get settled. The parents live on a farm of their own and have lately added some acres to the original land; two of the three children are married and have children of their own. Then we did the same sort of thing for a Czecho-Slovakian and his wife. Then a Dutch-Indonesian family of four; then a single Dutch-Indonesian; and now we are considering an Algerian who has been taken to France where he is having a hard and a very unhappy time. I think we shall be helping him. He speaks some English -- if he had a good command of English he'd have little difficulty in securing a job, for he is a male nurse, and has had much experience as head nurse in both military and civilian hospitals.

But time has got away -- as the boy said, "Tempus certainly does fugit", and it will be the 21st in another half hour. I'll call it a day and get to bed.

With best wishes always, for you and the work you are doing, which you will not need to interrupt by answering this letter,

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.