

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington To the Members of the Newberg Monthly Meeting Refugee Committee, December 10, 1965

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1000 Sheridan Street, Newberg, Oregon,
December 10, 1965.

To the Members of the Newberg Monthly Meeting Refugee Committee.

Dear Friends:--

It is still somewhat uncertain whether I shall be at church Sunday, so I am writing to tell you about the situation regarding Charles Florit, the French-Algerian whom we are considering for possible sponsorship.

As you directed I wrote to Richard F. Smith, head of the Resettlement Refugee work of the American Friends Service Committee, raising the questions about Charles Florit that came up in our discussion at our last meeting. His reply informed me that he did not have the information we desired, and suggested that I write to Charles Florit directly.

Since my knowledge of French is probably much less than his knowledge of English, I wrote my letter in English and then asked Miss Michelle Weidlinger, teacher of French at George Fox College, to translate the letter into French, which she gladly offered to do, without remuneration, and purely as a service to the cause that we are trying to serve. So Monsieur Florit will get a letter on my letter head, written in French which I could not possibly understand, but which I have every confidence will be my English thoughts expressed in perfectly correct French.

Miss Weidlinger explained the meaning of the statements about the formal education of our prospective protege, which she says is probably better than three years of High School work in the United States. If English was a part of that course, the statement that he has "some English" would have more meaning than it otherwise has.

Church, My letter asked about his present relationship with the Catholic, and why he is seeking help for resettlement in America from Friends instead of Catholics; about his divorce, when and on what grounds and whether it involves responsibility, financial or otherwise, to his former wife and children, if there were any; about what he would be able to contribute toward the cost of his transportation -- with the assurance that we are seeking this information in order that we may decide whether or not we can undertake to act as his sponsors for such a move and readjustment as he would have to make.

When I receive his reply (and get it translated into English) I shall hope to have a meeting of the committee for our decision in the matter.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington
Levi T. Pennington.