

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington To Jay W Beede, February 1, 1966

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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February 1, 1866.

Jay W. Beede, Gne Secy.,
Earlham College,
Richmond, Indiana.

Dear Friend:--

That's a good job you are doing for Earlham alumni who are 65 years or older, and I belong to that class.

"Whether I agree with the idea of Medicare or not", I am signed up for both phases of this system. I don't approve of everything that Oregon Yearly Meeting does -- I'm sure my plan would have been better. The plan adopted for remodeling the building is not the one I'd favor -- isn't that the way we decide that the other plan is inferior? -- but I go right along doing me best in the monthly meeting. The same thing is true in the yearly meeting, the American Friends Service Committee, the city, the state, the nation, I don't agree with everything that is done, but I go along and make the best of the situation, obey the automobile laws, pay my taxes, etc. My state and my nation do much for me, highways, bridges, water supply, sewage disposal, police protection, conservation of natural resources, etc. And the state and the nation, the school district and the municipality have a right to make demands of me, for the payment of taxes, jury duty, assistance in times of crisis. But just as the national authority is above that of the state, so there is law above that of the nation, and when state or nation invades the realm of conscience and asks a man do violate what he understands is God's law for him, then a man is under obligation to obey the higher law.

All right, I'll quit. But in a sense "you brang it on yourself" by that "Whether you agree with the idea of Medicare or not." Medicare does not violate my conscious, so I take it. We had a speaker at our Rotary Club a week ago tomorrow, or maybe it was a week earlier, a man long a teacher of Political Science at Oregon State University, who is sure that we are losing our liberties and on the way to serious disaster. By federal educational aid, which he is sure will mean presently federal control, by federal subsidies to agriculture and a thousand and one enterprises such as highways, urban renewal, public and semi-public and private enterprises, the war against poverty, America the Beautiful, Great Society, Great Guns, Great Caesar, etc., this political scientist feels that we are headed for national disaster; but asked as to what he was personally doing about Medicare, he is taking advantage of both kinds of national medican insurance.

If you'll excuse all this verbiage, and read a bit less than the first four lines of this letter, I'll assure you that I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.