

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington to Richard F Smith, February 6, 1966

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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February 6, 1966.

Richard F. Smith,
Refugee-Resettlement,
American Friends Service Committee,
160 North Fifteenth Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 19102.

Dear Friend:--

Our Refugee Committee today decided to sponsor Charles Florit, and I am enclosing Guarantee of Resettlement, and I wish that settled the matter, but it is evident that it does not by a great deal. Indeed it looks to me as if the new law has got the situation so well red-taped up that I doubt of our friend Florit will ever see America.

He wrote a long letter to us, answering the questions I had raised, and made us definitely want to sponsor him. But he called our attention to this new law. He wrote:

Do you know about the new American immigration law? This law, in effect since December 1, 1965, requires for admission to the United States a labor contract(?) conferred by the American Department of Labor (Labor certificate with this law the financial guarantee is no longer necessary necessary. Today I am forwarding to the C.O.M.A.D.E. copies, in English, of Law ES575A. accompanied by my work certificates and authorization to practice my profession; all this photostatted and in English. Moreover, Friday, January 20, '66, the American consulate in Marseilles accorded me an interview on the basis of which I understand that C.I.M.A.D.E. or yourselves can ask the agency dealing with supervision and practice of the medical profession whether I am permitted to work as a nurse with the French Department (of Labor) (?) This authorization in French territory has the value of a state certificate of hospital nurse. If it is possible for you, it is necessary to inform the American Consul in Marseilles of this.

From your letter I understand that this form ES575A should come to us. Will it be sent to us when our Guarantee of Resettlement is received by you? It is by now in the hands of the C.I.M.A.D.E. If we should have it, will you communicate with that organization and get it started to us in the shortest possible time? I suppose Form B will accompany this Form A, and then we can see if we can get a hospital or a tailor to promise employment. If we succeed in that, then to the local State Employment office for their certification.

We'll hurry things at this end as fast as we can. As I understand it there is nothing more that we can do ^{officially} right now until we get that ES575A and the accompanying Form B.

A doctor member of our committee works in the Veterans Administration Hospital and he will enquire there and at other

hospitals if necessary about employment of a male nurse; and if we do not get assurance of employment there we'll go after the tailors. Frankly I do not see much chance of our success in getting Charles Florit over here. But we'll do our best.

(Would a man be "gooned" if he raised a question as to whether these provisions making it more difficult for a refugee to get into the land of the free and the home of the brave were put into the law because of pressure from organized labor? We have heard that suggestion somewhere.)

I'm sure that we could get our friend Florit into a good job if we could get him here, and take care of him until he did have a good job and got well settled. One of the hospitals in Portland has recently closed its doors because of the lack of nurses. But getting a hospital or anybody else to promise a man a job across a continent and across an ocean in advance and without seeing the applicant or knowing anything directly about him -- well, I think Hoffa's organization does not have much to fear from the inroads that Mr. Florit on the welfare of the teamsters. And I don't suppose his admission would disrupt the Auto Workers Union, nor the Union of Umbrella Menders, nor the Horseshoe Nail Manufacturers Union.

Clinging to hope for Mr. Florit, but with the admission that there is more desire than expectation in that hope, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington,
Chairman of Refugee Committee
of Newberg Monthly Meeting of Friends.

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