

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I am taking the liberty of suggesting that you might send for Judge Thomas and explain to him fully and frankly why you have felt it was not possible for you to do other than to make the matter of age the impersonal reason for reorganizing the Board of Governors in compliance with the Senate's provision which neither you nor your subordinates in the Administration sought; that you can then explain to Judge Thomas how much you have appreciated his services and his contribution to the Board---which might be stated in a letter to him as well---and how much you regret that he falls within the age limit which you can not avoid invoking. If you feel free to do so, and are advised that Senator Norris does not intend to run for re-election to the Senate, you might, it seems to me, also tell Judge Thomas that you would do whatever was within your power to help him if he would enter the campaign this fall to be elected to Senator Norris's seat. I understand indirectly that Judge Thomas has been advised that Senator Norris would support him for the Senate if the Senator decides finally not to run himself.

I am of the impression that in this way you would greatly ease Judge Thomas's mind, make him feel that he is not being unceremoniously discarded and thus convert a potential disgruntled antagonist into a supporter once more. At the moment he feels, apparently, much disturbed and inclined to be resentful and retaliatory.