

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1970

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your recent telegram regarding my nomination of Judge Harry Blackmun to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Judge Blackmun is highly qualified and, when confirmed, will become an outstanding member of the Supreme Court. However, to refer to either Judge Blackmun or the Chief Justice as a "Minnesotan" in any sense other than that of place of birth does not tell the whole story. The Chief Justice left Minnesota in 1953, serving as an Assistant Attorney General and then as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals here in Washington, D. C.

Harry Blackmun's judicial activities have been as a Judge of the Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit having jurisdiction over much of the upper Midwest and all of the Plains states, except Kansas and Oklahoma. Certainly the nomination was not made with any thought of conferring any benefits upon either of the Minnesota Senators, nor indeed upon Minnesota. It was submitted with the intention of elevating an outstanding, experienced strict constructionist to the Supreme Court.

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I feel long term benefits will accrue from Judge Blackmun's participation in the Court's deliberations. His contributions to "balance" the High Court should be of importance to Americans for years to come.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan", written in dark ink.

Honorable Bob Dole  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

*Whitings  
Woven Linen*