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The following is a statement released today (May 31, 1972) by Dr. Lorin A. Thompson, chancellor of George Mason University, in response to the passage of a resolution by the Board of Visitors which calls upon the governor of Virginia to appoint Chancellor Thompson as the temporary president of George Mason University, effective July 1, 1972.

#### CHANCELLOR THOMPSON'S STATEMENT

"I first wish to thank the Board of Visitors of George Mason University for the confidence and trust in me it has displayed in this resolution. I appreciate it deeply.

"I believe it is appropriate at this time, however, to underline two important points in reference to my possible continued association with the University.

"First, if Governor Holton approves the recommendation of the Board that I be appointed president of George Mason, I will accept the appointment under the conditions set forth in the resolution, namely that it is a temporary appointment. I reached the age of 70 in January of this year, and I have said publicly on several occasions that it is my desire to retire in the near future from my administrative duties here.

"Secondly, if the governor approves my appointment, I particularly hope my presence will allow our new Board of Visitors, which has met here today for the first time in a rather historic occasion in the life of this young university, ample time to consider the selection of my successor.

"I believe rather strongly that the Board should have ample opportunity to study the status and programs of George Mason University. It must examine both the University's present needs and, most importantly, its future goals. Such study and examination is the preliminary step to embarking upon the rather difficult and arduous task of selecting a new president.

"During the Board's study and deliberations in this very important selection process, I shall, as the University's chief administrator, bend my own efforts toward completing the effort which has already begun in making George Mason's transition from a four-year college under the University of Virginia to the free-standing institution it is today.

"I hope that my efforts will be successful in order that the new president, whomever he may be, will be able to get to the work which will be at hand with a minimum of delay.

"Again, I thank the Board of Visitors for its confidence and trust."

/s/ Lorin A. Thompson  
Chancellor