I. Thomas

As per your request, I have been informed by the Secretary of War that the US Senate will vote to remove the present limitation on the number of Major and Brigadier Generals, with the view of allowing the President to select thirty Major and eighty-five Brigadier Generals, from those individuals recommended by the Senate. The remainder are to be withdrawn.

If this be the case, I deem it my duty to convey the Army and the President to request that they return Leo Witham and Eustace as one of the Seventy.

First and foremost, there are seventy other men capable of service, but Chief of Staff and expect it and those of confirmed will remain in the Army.

Secondly, I had determined some time ago that before long I would retire from the Army whether promoted or not, and shall do it. Because my private affairs, health, pecuniary losses, and the health condition of my family requires this of me.
Nestly,

The condition of my health warns me that I cannot endure the fatigue and exposure of another campaign in this climate. These considerations impel me to make the above request. I hope you will do me the same favor - and at once inform me of his determination in the matter.

Respectfully,

J. F. Hamilton
Brig. Gen.