AN IMPROVED PRESIDENTIAL RECTANGLE

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In the May 1993 **Word Ways**, Darryl Francis presented a presidential rectangle: the names of 37 U.S. presidents joined within a 17x29 frame. In August, Lee Sallows presented the same names within a 19x22 frame, but his names are not all joined – a fatal flaw. Sallows states that some "purist" might criticize his result, and challenges readers to "produce a fully-connected layout of the same area". It can be done easily!

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        H A R D I N G     F I L L M O R E
        A         I   T   O         O   O   J
        G R A N T X   Y   R   J   N   O   A
        R         C O O L I D G E   R   S   C       M
        L I N C O L N   E         F   O   E   K     C
        S         E       R   B F   E   V   S       K
        P O L K   V A N   B U R E N     E   O       I
        N         E         S   R     C L I N T O N
        G     W I L S O N   H   S       T       A   L
        A         A       B       O           F   E
        R E A G A N   T R U M A N             T   Y
        F   R       D       C
        I   T       J   H       K
        E   H     H O   A       E       C   P   H
        L   U   W A S H I N G T O N   M A D I S O N
        D   R   Y   N   A       N       R   E   O
                E I S E N H O W E R   T   R   V
      A D A M S   O           D       E   C   E
                N       T A Y L O R   E   R
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The above is an inferior version of the 17x24 array on the next page which uses ten fewer spaces. I see no reason why this cannot be further **improved** but the trick escapes me for now. Can Sallows find an improvement using his computer?

In the May 1993 article, Francis suggested that his rectangle can be improved if GORE becomes the next president. However, vice-presidents seldom make it. One hundred senators also want the job – so, here is a new puzzle. Within the same 17x29 envelope that Francis used, include all the presidents and add as many letters as possible using the names of current senators. The rectangle on the next page contains GORE and the name of the senator trying hardest to see that he does not become the next president. The names of eighteen senators have been included; I doubt if this can be improved much. Remember, all 37 presidents must be included and all names must interlock.

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        H A R D I N G       F I L L M O R E                               E
        A           I       T       O       O           H   J             I
    G R A N T   X   Y       R   J   N       O       H A D A M S           S
        R       C O O L I D G E   R       S           H A Y E S           E
    L I N C O L N   E       F     O       E           S   K               N
        S           R       B     F       E               S               H
    P O L K   V A N   B U R E N                 C L I N T O N             O
        N       V E           S       R               T                   W
    G       W I L S O N       H       S                                   E
    A   T       A           B       O               A R T H U R
    R E A G A N   T R U M A N           K
    F   F       D           C           E       C   P   H
    I   T           W A S H I N G T O N   N   M A D I S O N
    E                   A               N       R   E   O
    L                 M C K I N L E Y     E       T   R   V
    D                       A             D       E   C   E
        J O H N S O N           T A Y L O R       E   R
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      H A R D I N G       F I L L M O R E               T   H A Y E S
      A           I       T       O       O   M U R R A Y           S
  B R Y A N   X   Y       R   J   N       O   C           F   J   G   A
      R       C O O L I D G E   R       S   K   J   T   A D A M S   S
  L I N C O L N   E       F     O       E   I   O           C       E
      S           E       R     B     F     E   V   N       H   K   F   R
  P O L K   V A N   B U R E N       P E L L   N   E   K S   I
      N       V E           S       R   A   L   E I S E N H O W E R
  M       W I L S O N       H       S   R   T   Y   O   N       L   C
  U   D       A           B   G O A T S   K       N   E       D   L
  R E A G A N   T R U M A N     H   G O R E       D O L E       T
  K   N       D           C   R       H       H           Y   U   I
  O   F           R O T H   T   B R A D L E Y     B       G R A N T
  W   O               A   E   R               R           A   Y     O
  S A R B A N E S   N   R   A K A K A   H O O V E R       L   N
  K   T               A   U               W                   O
  I   H   W A S H I N G T O N   M A D I S O N       P I E R C E
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Gordon's Golden Rule: Solve the other man's puzzle by his rules before you present yours to him.