

A 1944 memo from President Franklin D. Roosevelt stating that Vietnam, formerly ruled by France, should not be returned to the French after World War II.

"France has milked it for one hundred years," Roosevelt wrote. "The people of Indo-China deserve something better than that."

A 1946 telegram from Vietnamese communist leader Ho Chi Minh to President Harry Truman begging for U.S. support on Vietnamese independence and opposition to the reintroduction of French control. (The CIA withheld it from Truman, Ferriero said.)

The last page of President Lyndon B. Johnson's stunning 1968 speech announcing that, as a result of the war, he would not run for reelection. "Accordingly," the president concluded, "I shall not seek—and will not accept—the nomination . . . for another term as your President."

He had crossed out "would" and replaced it with "will."

The exhibit also includes three Vietnam-era helicopters courtesy of the North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. The aircraft were installed Monday night on the lawn outside the Archives on Constitution Avenue.

Ferriero, 71, said he wanted the institution to mount a Vietnam exhibit in part because so many of the war's issues remain sensitive and unresolved.

In a long career that took him to big jobs at major universities and libraries, "no one—no one—wanted to talk about it," he said.

"No one asked me any questions," he said. "No one acknowledged it. . . . Never was it the topic of conversation."

Ferriero, in a recent interview in his office, said he also knew that the Archives had "incredible material in the records—photographs and all of the military records, the unit records. We have a lot of stuff."

"And for me it was important to tell the story from both sides," he said.

One fascinating document in the exhibit is a Viet Cong propaganda poster that echoes, from the enemy's point of view, the notorious U.S. obsession with numbers and body counts.

The poster claims, among other things, that the Viet Cong in 1962 and part of 1963 killed 28,108 South Vietnamese and 222 Americans—double the actual figures. "So that inflated body count was happening on both sides," said curator Alice Kamps, who assembled "Remembering Vietnam."

The exhibit includes CIA models of what appear to be an interrogation room and cell in the North Vietnamese prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, which held many American POWs.

There are transcripts of once secret American helicopter communications as Saigon, the chaotic capital of South Vietnam, was evacuated by the Americans in 1975.

"Bring ur personnel up thru th building," reads one communication. "Do not let them (the South Viets) follow too closely. Use mace if necessary but do not fire on them."

Although the exhibit covers the war from Ho Chi Minh's appearance at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 to architect Maya Lin's 1981 design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Ferriero's war had a single goal.

"We were all under the impression that the threat of communism was the biggest challenge," he said. "We were all playing a part in protecting us against communism."

Near the end of Ferriero's enlistment, he was shipped to Vietnam as a corpsman in a psychiatric ward.

"There were a lot of what we called at that point 'character disorders'—kids who were having trouble with authority," he said. "Then there were other folks who had more serious psychotic kinds of things . . . awaiting transfer back to the States."

Eventually, he was transferred to the 700-bed hospital ship USS Sanctuary, only to find the "psych" ward had been closed because too many patients had been jumping overboard.

But Ferriero could type, and he became an administrative clerk. After hours, though, he would help sort and treat the wounded who were transported from the battlefield to a kind of emergency room on the ship.

The helicopters came and went. Sometimes one would crash into the ocean. "In my time, no lives were lost," he said.

The ship would spend the day in the harbor at Da Nang, then cruise off the coast at night. Ferriero, who still has his dog tag on his key chain, said the injured included Americans and Vietnamese, soldiers, Marines and civilians. One case stood out. He was trying to start an intravenous line in an injured patient and couldn't find a good vein. Each time he failed, he discarded the needle and got a fresh one.

"Kept throwing down these needles," he recalled. "And at one point he just screamed." "I thought, 'Oh, Jesus, I'm losing him,'" he said. "This is it."

"It turned out that I had thrown one of those needles down on the gurney and he had rolled over on it," he said.

Ferriero was embarrassed. His patient "wasn't in that great distress," he said, "but I never followed up to see what had happened to him."

One day earlier this week, as Ferriero checked the exhibit, he joked that there was one thing missing: a Zippo cigarette lighter like those carried by many an American serving in Vietnam.

Later, in his office, he produced the one he kept for many years. It was in pristine condition. "USS Sanctuary" was etched in the side, and on the inside of its box was the famous Zippo slogan:

"It works or we fix it free."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 274, on the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army. I believe Mr. Esper is well qualified to be the Secretary of the Army. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

I would also note that I was unavailable for this rollcall vote because I was serving as ranking member at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for judicial nominees—and specifically a panel of four district court nominees from Kentucky and Kansas that had been enthusiastically endorsed by Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Senators ROBERTS and MORAN earlier that morning. Senator CRUZ—who was serving as the acting chair of the committee for this hearing at this time—and I had hoped that the vote would be held open long enough for us to participate.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 274, on the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 275, on the nomination of David G. Zatezalo, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 276, on the motion to invoke cloture on Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.●

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 463, Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army, due to having to chair a Judiciary Committee hearing on judicial nominations for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, and the District of Kansas. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the votes on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 463, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 383, and the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 300.

On vote No. 274, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 463.

On vote No. 275, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 383.

On vote No. 276, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 300.●

WELLNESS HEARING WITH SURGEON GENERAL JEROME ADAMS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks at the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WELLNESS HEARING WITH SURGEON GENERAL JEROME ADAMS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Today we are holding a hearing with the Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, to hear his priorities on how to encourage people to lead healthier lives. Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement. Then we will introduce Dr. Adams. After his testimony Senators will each have five minutes of questions.

When Dr. Adams and I met before his confirmation hearing, I said to him that if, as Surgeon General, he threw himself at one important problem with everything he has, he could have a real impact on the lives of millions of Americans.

At his confirmation hearing, he said, "I would also make wellness and community