

To: (unknown),  
CC: (unknown), INTERNET:EHTUSN@AOL.COM  
From: James Reckner, INTERNET:jjrec@ttacs1.ttu.edu  
Date: 4/6/97, 1:31 AM  
Re: Chancellor Montford

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From: James Reckner <jjrec@ttacs1.ttu.edu>  
Subject: Chancellor Montford  
To:  
Cc:  
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Dear Admiral:

I have just returned from the History Department's annual scholarship dinner, at which Les Cullen was awarded the prize for "Outstanding Graduate Student, 1997." Present at the dinner was Chancellor John T. Montford, with whom Middy and I shared a table. Of course, the opportunity was too good to let pass without pushing the Vietnam project.

About the Vietnam Center budget: The Chancellor advised me that he had been told by the Lieutenant Governor to ask for the \$4 million. He is very optimistic that we will actually receive that amount. He mentioned the possibility that we might actually use some of that money to begin our building.

About the new building: The Chancellor agrees with the concept of the new building and also agrees that we need it. I also highlighted that if we can get the building as I envision it (i.e., with the ground floor as the most magnificent Vietnam museum), then it would be something that would be much appreciated by the people of Texas, as it would be something normal (non-academic) folks could very easily appreciate and use. He liked that idea.

I pointed out that if we could again approach Mr. Perot, highlighting the patriotic aspect of the endeavor, we might well get him to donate \$20 million for the building and \$10 million to endow its staff. He responded that his initial approach to Perot had been positive, particularly when he mentioned that we were interested in housing his papers, and that if we could approach him from the right angle, we might still get the money from him.

Toward the end of this discussion, I pointed out to him our desperate need for space to run the Center, given the possibility that we will soon be running a \$2 million/year program. I cannot run a program of that dimension from my briefcase, as I have the Vietnam Center for the last eight years. He appreciated the need. He also said that he was considering putting the Vietnam building in as a part of the University's new "Master Plan."

I might add that I took some time to compliment Phil Price for all of his critical support of the program over the years. The Chancellor then reflected on his first political campaign, the fact that Phil had managed it, and also the fact that he lost that campaign. He did this in very good spirit, though, as he and Phil have been close friends for more than a quarter-century. I also took the opportunity to highlight the support Mr. W. R. Collier, president of American State Bank, gives us in the form of the magnificent reception at his bank during our

biennial symposia. Mr. Collier spares no expense for those receptions, of which he is very proud. And he is one of the most widely recognized leaders of Lubbock's commercial/financial life.

In sum, it was an excellent opportunity to "schmooze" with the boss, and the reaction I received from him was exceedingly promising. Long live John T. Montford!!!!

Very respectfully, James R. Reckner