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Protests against the war increased as more young men were "drafted" into the Army.

"The Draft" was both feared and hated. Who would be called up next? Or, as many people thought at the time, who would end up in the next batch of body bags?

After the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, both American and Vietnamese casualties increased dramatically. So did American knowledge of murders being committed in Vietnam.

In 1966, Bobby Kennedy was expressing his own views on the war. (This link takes you to an interesting two-page Press Release from Senator Kennedy on the status of the war in 1966.) By 1968, he wanted America to get out of Vietnam.

Tensions in the country continued to mount. LBJ decided he could not seek another term as America's leader. He wanted to work full time to get Americans out of Southeast Asia. Campaigning for office would have interfered with that objective. He planned to tell the country his decision on March 31, 1968.

In a live televised speech, LBJ surprised the American people, and most of his supporters, with his decision. He had kept the news to himself and a few trusted people. He even waited to release the teleprompter copy of his address until shortly before air time. The words he wanted to keep secret until he spoke them on the broadcast?

I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President.

The Presidential Daily Diary reflects LBJ's great personal certainty and relief about his decision. But President Nixon, eager to take office, did not learn from LBJ's mistakes.

Student unrest and protest movements would grow dramatically during Nixon's Administration.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LBJ-LEAVES-THE-WHITE-HOUSE-Remember-The-Titans>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LBJ-LEAVES-THE-WHITE-HOUSE-Remember-The-Titans>



Vietnamese Casualties

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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President Johnson and Robert McNamara

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives, via the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum.

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