

Dallas City Leaders Admit Excesses

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DALLAS, Dec. 3—Dallas looked at Dallas tonight through the hearts of some of its leading citizens and acknowledged excesses as well as greatness, false values as well as a justified civic pride.

In what was termed a public examination of citizen responsibilities, two businessmen and a university president spoke for a half-hour to a Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting about the impact of President Kennedy's death in their midst.

One speaker expressed the business community's mood this way:

"Christmas is coming. I would ask Santa for these presents: Quality to balance our quantity, restraint to balance our excesses and humility to balance our pride."

He was Charles A. Meyer, a Chamber director who is territorial vice president of Sears, Roebuck & Co.

"We must judge men by what they are, not what they have," he said to a hushed audience of hundreds. "I would say our next objective is balance. We must not lose the precious quality of individualism, but unthinking individualism is either arrogance or selfishness."

Dr. Willis M. Tate, president of Southern Methodist University, said there may be some who feel no personal weight about the events of the last 12 days but "they are not the people on whom the future of this city depends."

Dr. Tate pleaded that this weight be used to assure that Dallas be a community devoted to law and justice, dedicated

to the spirit of law as well as the letter.

"Personality is more to be respected than property," he said.

There is no need or desire for uniformity, he went on. Individuality and originality are desirable, but faith in truth is essential, he declared.

Dawson Sterling, president of the Dallas Assembly, an organization of young executives, and of the Southwestern Life Insurance Company, said:

"We bowed our heads for our fallen President, and it is entirely proper now that we raise our heads high to build a still greater nation and world.

"Our responsibility, I believe, is to see that our fellow man is enlightened and informed. Only an educated, enlightened, reasoning, dedicated people can keep us free."