

A1281DN

(430)

DALLAS, TEX., JAN. 21 (AP)--EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM DEFENDED DALLAS, THE STATE OF TEXAS AND GOV. JOHN CONNALLY TODAY AND SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE MRS. JACQUELINE KENNEDY MADE A CRITICAL REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO HER IN THE BOOK "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

THE BAPTIST EVANGELIST, IN REMARKS PREPARED FOR HIS SERMON SUNDAY FROM THE PULPIT OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NOTED THAT AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S CONTROVERSIAL BOOK DESCRIBES DALLAS AS "A DISEASED CITY."

"NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH," GRAHAM SAID.

"WOULD YOU CALL WASHINGTON A DISEASED CITY BECAUSE ABRAHAM LINCOLN HAPPENED TO BE KILLED THERE? WOULD YOU CALL BUFFALO, NEW YORK, A DISEASED CITY BECAUSE WILLIAM MCKINLEY WAS SHOT THERE? WOULD YOU CALL MIAMI, FLA., A DISEASED CITY BECAUSE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT WAS ALMOST KILLED THERE?" GRAHAM SAID.

HE NOTED THAT MANCHESTER'S ACCOUNT OF THE NOV. 22, 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY QUOTED MRS. KENNEDY AS SAYING SHE DISLIKED GOV. JOHN CONNALLY BECAUSE HE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF.

GRAHAM SAID HE HAD KNOWN CONNALLY FOR 15 YEARS. "HE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST AMERICANS THAT WE HAVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE TODAY," THE SERMON TEXT SAID. "IF THERE IS ONE THING HE DOESN'T DO, IT IS TALK ABOUT HIMSELF."

A129 DN

CONNALLY WAS WOUNDED IN THE SHOTS THAT KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY. HE HAS TAKEN SHARP ISSUE WITH THE MANCHESTER BOOK, CALLING IT AN "ATTEMPT TO MANAGE HISTORY" AND HAS SAID HE WILL PUBLISH HIS OWN RECOLLECTIONS OF THE ASSASSINATION AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO IT.

THE EVANGELIST, IN DALLAS TO ADDRESS LEADERS OF A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONVOCATION AT 7:30 P.M. MONDAY, SAID THE CITY "BEARS A STIGMA IT DOES NOT DESERVE."

HIS REMARKS SAID LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE MAN THE WARREN COMMISSION IDENTIFIED AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN, WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY RESIDENT AND "HAD PRACTICALLY NO FRIENDS AND FEW ACQUAINTANCES."

THE WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM "HOUR OF DECISION" WILL AIR THE  
EVANGELIST'S REMARKS SUNDAY ON 900 RADIO STATIONS.

IN A NEWS CONFERENCE SATURDAY, GRAHAM, WHO IS TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SAID  
AMERICAN'S CHURCH SCHOOLS ARE FAILING TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE "THE  
PROPER MOTIVATION AND CHALLENGE."

HE SAID A TRIP TO VIETNAM LAST YEAR MADE HIM BELIEVE THAT UNITED  
STATES FORCES THERE ARE "PROBABLY THE BEST-MOTIVATED" IN HISTORY.

TUESDAY MORNING HE WILL GIVE A 10 A.M. ADDRESS AT SOUTHWESTERN  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN FORT WORTH, WEDNESDAY HE WILL SPEAK TO  
A GATHERING AT HOUSTON.

RB756PCS NM