

EB76

(200)

DALLAS, TEX., JAN. 23 (AP)-BILLY GRAHAM, THE WORLDWIDE EVANGELIST, DEFENDED DALLAS AND THE TEXAS GOVERNOR IN A TAPED "HOUR OF DECISION" BROADCAST FOR USE YESTERDAY.

DR. GRAHAM SAID DALLAS HAS, SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY HERE IN 1963, BORNE "A STIGMA IT DOES NOT DESERVE."

THE BROADCAST WAS RECEIVED BY 900 RADIO STATIONS. DR. GRAHAM IS IN DALLAS FOR A BAPTIST EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE. HE SPEAKS TONIGHT AT A CONVOCATION AND ALL THE 11,500 SEATS IN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM HAVE BEEN RESERVED.

DR. GRAHAM ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S DESCRIPTION OF DALLAS AS A DISEASED CITY.

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

MANCHESTER WROTE THE CONTROVERSIAL BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BOOK QUOTED MRS. JACQUELINE KENNEDY AS SAYING SHE DISLIKED TEXAS' GOV. JOHN CONNALLY BECAUSE HE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF.

DR. GRAHAM SAID HE HAD BEEN A FRIEND OF CONNALLY FOR 15 YEARS AND CALLED HIM "ONE OF THE GREATEST AMERICANS THAT WE HAVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE TODAY."

THE MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE MRS. KENNEDY MADE THE REMARK AND SAID ABOUT CONNALLY, "IF THERE IS ONE THING HE DOESN'T DO, IT IS TALK ABOUT HIMSELF."

TO BLAME DALLAS FOR KENNEDY'S DEATH, THE EVANGELIST SAID, WOULD BE SIMILAR TO BLAMING WASHINGTON FOR LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION OR BLAMING BUFFALO, N.Y., FOR MCKINLEY'S MURDER.

NN1034ACS