

Welcome, General

General Eisenhower is Fort Worth's guest today and Fort Worth takes pride in that fact. Specifically, the former supreme Allied commander in Europe, now president of Columbia University, is here to address the annual meeting of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

The popular eagerness to hear and see the general is evidenced by the fact that the dinner meeting is a 3,200-seat sellout. Undoubtedly, had they been made available, many more seats could have been sold for the occasion. But General Eisenhower didn't want it that way. He modestly insisted that his appearance not be turned into a public spectacle.

General Eisenhower recently has been speaking his mind on important subjects of the day, and there are those who profess to see in this an indication that he entertains presidential ambitions. This the general has disavowed, and his disavowal is good enough for us.

As a university president, General Eisenhower is in a position to speak out on current issues, to give his fellow countrymen the benefit of his thinking on matters of economics and government, without the inhibitions that applied to him as a member of the military. He is a man of high patriotism, and his recent warnings that individual liberty may be sacrificed by too much surrender to the lure of the "welfare state" can be taken as a reflection of deep concern for the preservation of a strong, free America.

A soldier of outstanding brilliance and accomplishment, General Eisenhower gave proof during his leadership of the Allied forces in Europe of being possessed of rare executive ability and qualities of diplomacy. In his new civilian role as administrative head of a great educational institutional, he also is revealing himself to have a wholesome and well defined social and governmental philosophy, which has as its basis a genuine regard for the country's welfare. Popular recognition of his qualities has made him one of the nation's most respected and admired citizens. A warm and engaging personality has made him one of the best liked. Fort Worth extends him the hand of hearty welcome.