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Star-Telegram Going for Ike

FORT WORTH, Feb. 10 (UP)—The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, an independent Democratic newspaper and one of Texas' largest, Saturday announced its support of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a "man above politics and above party," for the presidency of the United States.

It followed into the Eisenhower camp two other major Texas newspapers, the Dallas Times-Herald, first to announce outright support of the general, and the Dallas Morning News, which indicated it would favor Eisenhower when it asked Taft in an open letter to withdraw in favor of the NATO supreme commander.

The Star-Telegram expressed the belief nomination of Taft and of President Truman by Democrats would result in a "bitter, rancorous, disruptive campaign which would divide the country sharply at a time when unity is urgent. . .

"What the country needs at such a time is not an aggravation of old differences and the creation of new ones," the lengthy editorial continued, "but a healing of differences and a closing of ranks under a leader who is not the head of any faction or party but who is capable of appealing to and representing all the people. What the times call for is a man who is above politics and above party. . .

"Without reflection upon any who are now or who may become active aspirants for the presidency we believe the man who best fits these specifications is Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. . ."

The newspaper said it was not disturbed that Eisenhower's present assignment prohibits him from speaking freely upon public issues at the moment. Friends who know Eisenhower best, it said, "are confident that when the time comes, he will call the shots as he sees them. . . Besides, the people, we believe, have come to place no great confidence in political statements and campaign pronouncements. . ."