

Chief Says DN-11/23 Every Step Was Taken

President John F. Kennedy had as much police protection against assassination in Dallas Friday as is possible in a modern city, Police Chief Jesse Curry said.

"Everything was proceeding just perfect—we had got through downtown in fine shape," Curry reported to City Mgr. Elgin Crull.

"The Secret Service men were elated with how things were going. Then I heard that crack. I knew damn well what it was. We took off for the hospital. I saw the President and Gov. (John) Connally slumped. I knew damn well what had happened."

The Dallas police department had given the Washington security team "all they had asked for—in fact, we put 50 to 60 more men on the project than they had requested," said Curry.

He shook his head—"They had to bring him through town—a Secret Service man told me they didn't want that either."

The police chief added: "I was praying for rain, so they would put that bullet proof bubble up (on the presidential car)."

Curry shook his head, sadly.

"You can't put a man at every window—it is impossible."

In City Hall, stunned workers asked each other what had happened. A secretary burst into sobs.

Calls from the nation's press and radio stations came in, seeking the mayor or city manager. Telegrams began to appear—one from New York stating, "I'm ashamed of ever living in your city," and, another, "Your city will always be associated with the infamy of today."

A young man with a transistor radio stood outside City Hall, surrounded by a small group. An elderly lady, with shopping bag and umbrella, cried silently. A Negro woman stood close. She appeared dazed. The young man interrupted the bulletins: "Nobody better say anything against President Kennedy around this town for a long while."

An Eastern radio station asked Crull to comment.

"This city turned itself inside out to welcome President Kennedy," said Crull. "Now, everyone is almost paralyzed. The whole city is heartbroken. We don't know of anything that could have been done to prevent it."