

Agent Who Shielded President Promoted

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WASHINGTON — Rufus Youngblood, the agent who shielded President Johnson with his body at the time of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, has been appointed head of the White House Secret Service detail.

Youngblood will assume his new duties Monday, succeeding Gerald A. Behn, who was named by Mr. Kennedy in 1961 as special agent in charge of the White House detail.

Roy H. Kellerman, who was in Mr. Kennedy's limousine at the time of the assassination, also will be elevated to "deputy special agent in charge." He will replace Floyd M. Boring.

James J. Rowley, chief of the Secret Service, announced the changes and said they were "in line with the service's policy of rotating key personnel in order to provide senior supervisors with the broadest possible experience."

Two Reassigned

Behn and Boring, neither of whom was in Dallas when Mr. Kennedy was killed, are being assigned to Secret Service headquarters as inspectors.

Rowley said the changes at the White House are part of his plan to "streamline and improve" the Secret Service.

Youngblood served as assistant special agent in charge of protecting Mr. Johnson when he was Vice

President. He joined the Secret Service in 1951 and was on the White House detail during the administration of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Youngblood was assigned to protect Mr. Johnson in 1961 and returned to the White House detail when Mr. Johnson became President in November, 1963.

Kellerman, who has been with the Secret Service since 1941, was first on the White House detail in 1942-51, and returned to the White House in 1955.

At the time of Mr. Kennedy's assassination, Kellerman was the agent in charge of the Presidential trip to Dallas.

Youngblood was riding in the limousine with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Sen. Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.) when shots were fired into the Dallas motorcade, killing Mr. Kennedy and seriously injuring Texas Gov. John Connally.

As soon as the first shot was fired, Youngblood ordered the Johnsons and Yarborough to crouch down out of sight.

'Sat on Me'

In a statement to the Warren Commission, the President said: "I was pushed down by Agent Youngblood. Almost in the same moment in which he hit or pushed

me, he vaulted over the back seat and sat on me."

Youngblood then protected Mr. Johnson with his body until they arrived at Parkland Hospital, where Mr. Kennedy was pronounced dead. Since that time, Youngblood has been the agent most closely involved in protecting Mr. Johnson and has been at his side in all his travels. *VD*