

EA174!DN

HOOTEN 340

RBY

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1040 ACS

HOUSTON, TEX., APRIL 5 (AP)-NORMAN HOOTEN, THE FORMER DALLAS DEPUTY SHERIFF WHO SAYS JACK RUBY MADE MANY DISCLOSURES TO HIM, HAS RESIGNED HIS POST AS A GAME WARDEN.

HE SAID HE RESIGNED UNDER FIRE FROM HIS SUPERIOR. BUT J.R. SINGLETON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHY HOOTEN QUIT.

HOOTEN WAS A GUARD IN THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL WHILE RUBY WAS CONFINED THERE. RUBY KILLED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, NAMED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

RUBY DIED JAN. 3 OF CANCER WHILE AWAITING A NEW TRIAL FOR THE OSWALD KILLING.

THE JAILER TURNED GAME WARDEN SAYS HE IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT WHAT RUBY TOLD HIM IN JAIL. HE ALSO SAID RUBY WROTE A WILL IN JAIL THAT LEFT HOOTEN SEVERAL SMALL ITEMS.

HOOTEN SAID SINGLETON TOLD HIM HE HAD "NO BUSINESS BEING INVOLVED IN WRITING ANY BOOKS ABOUT JACK RUBY OR KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OR ANYTHING ELSE."

BUT SINGLETON SAID TODAY IN AUSTIN:

"HE RESIGNED OF HIS OWN ACCORD. I DID CALL HIM INTO MY OFFICE LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS DAMAGE TO A STATE VEHICLE AND HOW IT OCCURRED.

SINGLETON SAID THE DAMAGE WAS TO A CAR'S WINDOWS, WHICH HOOTEN CONTENTS WERE SHATTERED BY GUNFIRE.

"HOOTEN DID TELL ME HE WAS WRITING A BOOK ON JACK RUBY BUT I TOLD HIM THAT WAS HIS BUSINESS AS LONG AS HE DID IT ON HIS OWN PERSONAL TIME," SINGLETON SAID. "I DON'T KNOW WHY HE RESIGNED. HE DIDN'T RESIGN TO ME. IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT I RECEIVED WORD FROM HOUSTON THAT HE HAD RESIGNED."

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BOB CROSS OF SEABROOK, REGIONAL SENIOR ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, SAID HOOTEN CALLED BY TELEPHONE SATURDAY NIGHT TO TURN IN HIS IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION.

HOOTEN, NOW LIVING IN HIS PERMANENT HOME TOWN OF GARLAND, A DALLAS SUBURB, COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR COMMENT TODAY. HE IS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN A JOB WITH AN INSURANCE COMPANY.

HOOTEN SAID HE WAS SHOT AT LAST WEDNESDAY WHILE DRIVING ON A LONELY ROAD NEAR THE HOUSTON COASTAL SUBURB OF LEAGUE CITY. BUT LEAGUE CITY POLICE CHIEF B.T. AUSTIN SAID AN INVESTIGATION BY HIS OFFICE HAS FAILED TO CONFIRM THE INCIDENT.

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