

NY DAILY NEWS 12-7-75

Ex-agent tearfully recalls JFK's death

By KAY GARDELLA

Clint Hill, former Secret Service agent, breaks down on camera tonight when he's interviewed by Mike Wallace, "60 Minutes" reporter, on the subject of the Kennedy assassination. It's a moving television moment that reflects the torment and anguish suffered by this man whose job it was to protect the President.

Hill, interviewed in his home with his wife, Gwen, at his side, retired from presidential detail after 17 years. He was on the fender of the Secret Service car, right behind Kennedy's car, that fatal Nov. 22 day in Dallas in 1963. In reliving the day for Wallace, who described how in less than two seconds Hill ran forward and jumped on the President's Car, "pulling Mrs. Kennedy down into her seat," he broke down several times.

He denied that Mrs. Kennedy was trying to climb out of the car. "Part of her husband's head had been shot off and gone into the street . . . she was simply trying to reach that head, part of that head . . ." Hill began to cry, as will anyone watching this agonizing interview.

A difficult job

The difficult job of protecting Presidents—Hill served during five administrations—is dealt with in the session, along with possible ineptness in the Secret Service. Hill said he got into a fight with Bob Haldeman during the Nixon tenure over the building of a presidential car. "We wanted a certain type top on the car that would protect the President from the rear. And he said, 'no.'" Hill added that had such a car been built during JFK's administration Jack Kennedy would be alive today.

Wallace, whose tough reportorial attitude never wavers, wanted to know if it's the job of the Secret Service to keep a list of potentially dangerous people, why Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, James Earl Ray, Arthur Bremer, Sarah Moore and Lynette Fromme were not on such a list.

"Is Mike Wallace on it?" asks Hill.

He went on to say that he does not know for a fact that Mike Wallace is not becoming a psychiatric problem. "If I could predict every person who would stand in a crowd with a gun in their hand I would be the greatest thing since Jeane Dixon," he said.

Hill, who says he has a severe neurological problem, and has been told he needs psychiatric



Clint Hill and wife, Gwen, on CBS' "60 Minutes."

help, all traced back to the Dallas shooting, partially blames himself for not reacting faster and despite citations for bravery, admitted he still carries around a sense of guilt that he'll take to his grave. His severe emotional state caused Wallace to change the subject.

The two discussed how, in the name of the Secret Service and security, the Key Biscayne and San Clemente homes of Richard Nixon were refurbished at great expense. Hill said that more than half of the expenditures were not required by the Secret Service. He suggested that Mike put his questions to Bob Haldeman.

Protecting first ladies, too, is gone into, with such startling figures tossed around as \$472,000, the cost of protecting Mamie Eisenhower. Hill said that in his opinion these women don't need protection. "It's mainly a service function as opposed to a protective function," he commented.

"In a sense, you are butlers, chauffeurs, companions," said Mike.

The interview, along with a report on "Life in a Missile Silo" and women in today's Army, kicks off a 52-week schedule for "60 Minutes" in the 7 p.m. Sunday time slot. On-camera reporters are Wallace, Dan Rather and Morley Safer.