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Agent: Would Have Died for JFK

By HENRY MACHIRELLA

Clinton J. (Clint) Hill, the former Secret Service agent shown in the historic photo clambering aboard the presidential limousine grasping Jacqueline Kennedy's arm, said that if he had reacted faster when he heard gunfire he would have willingly taken the shot that killed President John F. Kennedy.

"That would have been fine with me," said Hill, who retired from the Secret Service last July after 17 years of duty at the White House, eight of them as head of the presidential security detail, as he was on Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas. Hill revealed many of his thoughts about that day in an interview to be broadcast tonight on CBS' "60i-Minutes" news program.

Hill who was riding on the back of Kennedy's open limousine, said that he "wouldn't be here today" had he reacted about "five tenths of a second faster, maybe a second faster."

Hill, now 43, although cited for bravery despite his vain attempt to protect Kennedy from the fatal gunfire, added, "I don't care about that. If I had reacted just a little bit quicker I could have saved him, I guess, and I'll live with that to my grave."

The former agent still concludes that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing the President. He said that he took an early retirement from the Secret Service because of emotional problems stemming from the assassination. He said that his doctors have recommended psychiatric help.