

Secret Service Head Denies Pressure Led to Transfer

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Secret Service Director James J. Rowley said yesterday he ordered Robert H. Taylor transferred as head of the White House detail for routine rotation and denied there was any pressure from President Nixon's staff.

Authoritative sources said earlier this week that Taylor, who has been in charge of protecting Mr. Nixon since his successful 1968 campaign, had been ousted because of a rift with presidential assistant H. R. Haldeman.

Rowley issued a statement yesterday "in the interest of establishing an accurate record" as a result of what he called "recent numerous news reports of an alleged rift between a member of the Secret Service and a member of the White House staff."

Rowley said Taylor "has not been discharged nor was such action ever considered." He added "at no time has any member of the White House staff either requested or implied to the Secret Service that Mr. Taylor should be removed or transferred."

The sources said friction developed between Haldeman and Taylor during last fall's presidential campaign over the issue of crowd control, when Taylor insisted on tight



JAMES J. ROWLEY
... explains shift

security and Haldeman wanted Mr. Nixon to have freer physical access to the public.

These sources said their differences reached a peak during former President Lyndon B. Johnson's funeral in Washington Jan. 25, which Mr. Nixon attended. Taylor was reassigned Feb. 9.

Other reports said Taylor threatened Haldeman with arrest during a Nov. 3 confrontation at Providence, R.I., over Haldeman's order that restraining ropes be lowered to permit a spectator demonstration at the airport.

The White House previously had denied a Haldeman-Taylor rift and characterized Taylor's involuntary removal as a promotion.

Rowley said Taylor had been put in charge of the service's foreign dignitary protective division for guarding visiting foreign heads of state and other dignitaries.

"Mr. Taylor's transfer was initiated by me in keeping with our policy of rotating supervisory personnel," he said.