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SECRET SERVICE

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8 (AP)-RUFUS W. YOUNGBLOOD, THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO GUARD PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON THE DAY PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED, HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE WHITE HOUSE DETAIL.

SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. ROWLEY ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, SAID ROY H. KELLERMAN, WHO WAS IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE CAR IN WHICH KENNEDY WAS RIDING WHEN HE WAS SLAIN A YEAR AGO LAST NOV. 22, HAS BEEN MADE DEPUTY TO YOUNGBLOOD.

YOUNGBLOOD SUCCEEDS GERALD A. BEHN, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SECRET SERVICE HEADQUARTERS STAFF AS AN INSPECTOR.

YOUNGBLOOD WAS RIDING IN THE CAR WITH JOHNSON, WHO WAS THEN VICE PRESIDENT, IN DALLAS ON THE DAY OF THE ASSASSINATION. DURING THE FIRING OF THE SHOTS THAT STRUCK KENNEDY, YOUNGBLOOD SHOVED JOHNSON AND MRS. JOHNSON TO THE FLOOR AND SHIELDED THEM WITH HIS BODY.

ONE OF JOHNSON'S FIRST ACTIONS AS PRESIDENT WAS TO WRITE A LETTER COMMENDING YOUNGBLOOD FOR HIS QUICK ACTION.

ROWLEY SAID THE CHANGES WERE IN LINE WITH THE SERVICE'S POLICY OF ROTATING KEY PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE SENIOR SUPERVISORS WITH THE BROADEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE. ROWLEY ALSO SAID THE CHANGES WERE PART OF HIS PLAN TO STREAMLINE AND IMPROVE THE SERVICE.

KELLERMAN WILL SUCCEED FLOYD M. BORING, WHO ALSO WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

AGENT THOMAS L. JOHNS WILL CARRY OUT THE DUTIES FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO KELLERMAN.

A38WX

KELLERMAN WAS THE AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE DALLAS TRIP, BEHN HAVING REMAINED IN WASHINGTON.

KELLERMAN TESTIFIED BEFORE THE WARREN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION THAT AS SOON AS THE ASSASSIN'S FIRST SHOT STRUCK KENNEDY HE SHOUTED TO THE DRIVER "WE ARE HIT! GET US TO A HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY."

JOHNSON'S STATEMENT TO THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN SAID:

"I WAS STARTLED BY THE SHARP REPORT, OR EXPLOSION, BUT I HAD NO TIME TO SPECULATE AS TO ITS ORIGIN BECAUSE AGENT (RUFUS) YOUNGBLOOD

TURNTD IN A FLASH IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRST EXPLOSION, HITTING ME ON THE SHOULDER, AND SHOUTED TO US ALL IN THE BACK SEAT TO GET DOWN.

"I WAS PUSHED OVER 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..."

THE COMMISSION RECEIVED TESTIMONY THAT SOME AGENTS HAD STAYED UP LATE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND DRANK MODERATELY, BUT SAID IN ITS REPORT "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THESE MEN FAILED TO TAKE ANY ACTION IN DALLAS WITHIN THEIR POWER THAT WOULD HAVE AVERTED THE TRAGEDY."

BEHN HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE WHITE HOUSE DETAIL EVER SINCE HE JOINED THE SECRET SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 1939 AND HAS HELD A RANKING POSITION AT THE WHITE HOUSE SINCE 1949. HE WAS NAMED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE IN SEPTEMBER 1961.

YOUNGBLOOD, A NATIVE OF MACON, GA., WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DETAIL GUARDING JOHNSON SHORTLY AFTER THE LATTER BECAME VICE PRESIDENT. IN NOVEMBER 1963 HE WAS MADE AN ASSISTANT TO BEHN.

YOUNGBLOOD IS 40 YEARS OLD AND HAS BEEN AN AGENT SINCE 1951.

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