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WASHINGTON AP - The man President Johnson credits with shielding him from harm during the assassination of President John F. Kennedy now ranks as the Secret Service's No. 2 agent.

Promotion of Rufus W. Youngblood, 43, to the newly created post of deputy director of the service was announced Friday by Director James J. Rowley as part of an administrative overhaul.

Promoted at the same time to chief of the White House bodyguard was Clint Hill, who many observers felt saved Jacqueline Kennedy from serious injury after her husband was shot.

Johnson praised Youngblood highly after the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination. He said the agent pushed him to the floor of an open convertible in which they were riding and used his body to shield the then-vice president from possible sniper fire.

Hill, 35, leaped on the trunk of the convertible carrying Kennedy and appeared to prevent Mrs. Kennedy who was climbing out of the back seat onto the trunk deck from falling from the car.

Other Secret Service promotions involved:

-Thomas L. Lem Johns, 41, special agent in charge of the presidential protective division, to succeed Youngblood as a service assistant director.

-Robert H. Taylor, 41, former deputy to Johns, to be deputy assistant director of over-all protective services.

Rowley said the shifts marked the final stage of a reorganization intended to strengthen the service.

Youngblood is a native of Macon, Ga., and has been an agent since 1951. Johns, an agent since 1954, was raised in Birmingham, Ala. Hill is a Larimore, N.D., native who joined the service in 1958 and Taylor, from Iola, Kans., became an agent in 1951.

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