

B110dn

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 17 (AP)-Police Chief Jesse Curry, who directed the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, resigned today, giving tensions of the office affecting his health as the reason.

Curry will step down March 10 at the end of a current vacation.

His resignation was made to city manager Elgin Crull.

The Chief's letter to the city manager said that the continued pressures and tensions of the office have affected his blood pressure, his doctor tells him.

After a short rest, the letter said, he will enter another line of work which was not specified.

Curry became chief Jan. 20, 1960, after progressing steadily in the department. He joined it in 1936 as a patrolman.

The chief and his 1,100 man force were given considerable credit for swiftly capturing Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated the President and wounded Gov. John Connally Nov. 22, 1963.

Then two days later a storm of criticism swirled around the department when Jack Ruby slipped into the city hall basement and killed Oswald during a routine jail transfer.

A year later, Curry told newsmen, "I wake up every now and then at 2 and 3 in the morning thinking about Kennedy, Oswald, and Ruby, and can't go back to sleep."

He also said, "the worst thing that ever happened to us was Jack Ruby."

He said he feels that until Ruby's shot was fired his department could stand unashamed for tracking down the President's killer less than 90 minutes after the assassination.

The police and the Secret Service knew nothing of Oswald's background, although the FBI did. Oswald renounced his United States citizenship and lived in Russia for a time, but then returned to the United States.

Among other features of his administration was the absence of any disturbances, partly because of advance police efforts, when Dallas integrated some of its schools in 1961.