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DALLAS, Tex. AP - Former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry says he still receives hate letters from over the nation blaming him for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy five years ago.

"It's something I guess they'll never let me forget," Curry said Friday. He resigned his city post three years after the murder of the nation's 35th President and the shooting of the man held as the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, in the basement of the Dallas city jail.

Curry is now security chief for the Texas Bank & Trust Co. in Dallas.

The hate letters still come.

"I got one just three weeks ago from somebody in Washington, D.C.," Curry said in an interview. "The people who write them must be some kind of psychopaths. They think the whole thing was all my fault."

Curry said his wife destroys the letters if she sees them first.

Curry said one change he would have made in police action that weekend would have been to bar all newsmen and outsiders from the basement of the Dallas city jail where Jack Ruby barged through a crowd of newsmen and detectives and shot Oswald as he was being transferred to the county jail.

"If I had it to do over, I wouldn't let anybody in there, period," he said. "And I could get by with it now, but I couldn't have then."

Curry offers no apologies for the Dallas Police Department, and he asks no sympathy.

"Part of a police chief's job is to take the rap when something like this happens," he said. "If mistakes were made, they were honest mistakes."

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