

Merry-Go-Round

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**Secret Service Hero
Hounded Out of Job**



Jack Anderson

RUFUS YOUNGBLOOD, hero of the John F. Kennedy shooting, has been hounded out of the Secret Service. His heroism in shielding Lyndon Johnson from the assassin's bullets, ironically, marked him as a "Johnson man" with the Republicans who inherited the White House.

Actually, he served for six years under President Eisenhower on the White House detail. But on that tragic November 22, 1963, in Dallas, he was guarding the Vice President. When assassin Lee Harvey Oswald opened fire on the Presidential procession, Youngblood bolted over the front seat and threw his body on top of Mr. Johnson.

Youngblood's first reaction was that the shooting might be part of a plot against the lives of all America's top leaders. So he hustled Mr. Johnson into an emergency room of Dallas Hospital, guarded him with a drawn revolver and then rushed him secretly to Air Force One.

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IN HIS MEMOIRS. Mr. Johnson recalls: "Agent Youngblood's quick reaction was as brave an act as I have ever seen anyone perform. When a man, without a moment's thought or hesitation, places himself between you and a possible assassin's bullet, you know you have seen courage. And you never forget it."

For his bravery, Youngblood received the Treasury Department's "exceptional service" award.

After Richard Nixon moved into the

White House, however, the new crowd considered Youngblood too close to the former President. Nixon aides suggested quietly to the Secret Service that he be moved out of the White House.

He was given a desk across the street at Secret Service headquarters. Thereafter, he was subjected to petty harassments until he quietly resigned last June after reaching eligibility for his 20-year pension. At 48, he was at the peak of his career.

Youngblood doesn't believe President Nixon personally had anything to do with his treatment. President Nixon is a gentleman," Youngblood told us. He refused to comment on whether Mr. Nixon's aides, on their own authority, had put the squeeze on him. Nor was he critical of the Secret Service. "The Secret Service is a good outfit," he said. "I don't want to say anything that would hurt it."

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WASHINGTON WHIRL — Mayor John Lindsay, the new Democratic luminary, recently invited Tunney, (Dem.-Calif) in New York political