



The New York Times/Mike Lien

Cecil Stoughton, in plaid jacket at left, taking photographs on the inaugural stand as Chief Justice Warren E. Burger swore in President Nixon.

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Visible Photographer Loses U.S. Job

By JAMES T. WOOTEN
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 27—A former White House photographer for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson has apparently been dismissed from his Government job because he was visible in pictures taken of President Nixon's second inauguration.

"They should have told me they didn't want me on the stand," Cecil Stoughton said today after confirming that the personnel department of the National Parks service had told him last week that his \$25,000-a-year job as chief still photographer was being abolished.

The White House officially denied that it was involved in any way with Mr. Stoughton's loss of a Government post.

Mr. Stoughton snapped the now-famous pictures of Lyndon B. Johnson taking the oath of office after John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

In Nixon Background

There was no clear explanation of why the still-photography job had been erased or who may have made that decision.

Mr. Stoughton said today that on Jan. 22 he was called into the office of Kenneth Walker, the director of the service, and scolded for having appeared in the official photograph of President Nixon's inauguration.

That picture shows Mr. Nixon with hand raised, his wife and Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, with Mr. Stoughton in the background, wearing a plaid jacket, his camera to his eye.

"They are upset," Mr. Stoughton quoted Mr. Walker, the director, as saying. "What," Mr. Walker reportedly asked "were you doing there?"

"That word 'they' is the magical word, I suppose," Mr. Stoughton said. "I do know he [Mr. Walker] got that picture from the White House. It's the one Ollie Atkins took."

Mr. Atkins is the chief White House photographer, a job Mr. Stoughton held under the two previous Presidents. Mr. Atkins was not available for comment.

Mr. Stoughton said he understood that his presence on the inaugural stand "really upset some of the White House camera corps—so maybe that's the 'they' Walker was talking about. I just don't know."

He said he had written a letter of apology to President Nixon after deciding that perhaps he had inadvertently been an intruder into history. The White House said it had not received the letter. Mr. Stough-

ton said it was probably in Mr. Walker's files.

Mr. Stoughton said he had received a general pass to cover the inaugural parade from the National Park Service and had later received an inaugural-stand pass from someone he declined to identify.

"I got up there by a quirk of fate," he said. "If I'd known I was going to be on the stand, I would have worn a dark coat."

Mr. Stoughton, 53 years old, with more than 30 years of Government service, including several years in the military, was also the photographer who caught President Kennedy's daughter's pony, Macrae, nipping at the President's hand and shoulders and sending him diving and rolling for cover on the weekend before his death.

At a reduced annuity, Mr. Stoughton is now eligible for Government retirement benefits that amount to less than half his present salary.

See Time Magazine, 5 Mar 73, this file.