

NY ONLY

PMS TUESDAY

WITH MANCHESTER

DALLAS, TEX., FEB. 7 (AP)—FEDERAL JUDGE SARAH T. HUGHES, WHO ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON NOV. 22, 1963 AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SAID TODAY SHE GAVE KENNEDY'S PERSONAL BIBLE "TO THE FIRST PERSON I SAW" AFTER SHE HAD LEFT THE PLANE.

"I DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS," JUDGE HUGHES SAID.

JUDGE HUGHES SAID THE MAN ASKED:

"DON'T YOU WANT TO KEEP IT?"

SHE SAID SHE ANSWERED: "NO, IT DOESN'T BELONG TO ME."

AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER REPORTS IN HIS BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN PERSUADED JUDGE HUGHES TO GIVE HIM THE BIBLE ALONG WITH THE CARD ON WHICH THE OATH HAD BEEN TYPED.

"...SHE SURRENDERED THEM, ASSUMING HE WAS SOME SORT OF SECURITY MAN. HE WASN'T," MANCHESTER ALSO WROTE:

"THE LAST ITEM OF KENNEDY MEMORABILIA TO BE LEFT IN DALLAS, HIS MOST CHERISHED PERSONAL POSSESSION, WAS HIS BIBLE."

JUDGE HUGHES TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THAT SHE REMEMBERS THE MAN WAS IN "A SUIT" BUT SAID "HE DIDN'T COME UP TO ME.

"I IMMEDIATELY LEFT THE PLANE AND THE FIRST PERSON I SAW I HANDED HIM THE BIBLE."

SHE SAID THERE WAS NO INDICATION THE MAN WAS A SECURITY AGENT.

JUDGE HUGHES ALSO SAID SHE COULDN'T RECALL WHAT COLOR OF SUIT THE MAN WAS WEARING.

"SOME WOMAN WROTE TO ME AND SAID SHE WAS DOING A PAINTING ON THE INTERIOR OF THE CABIN (OF THE PLANE) AND WANTED TO KNOW THE COLOR OF THE CEILING AND THE FLOWERS ON THE TABLE," JUDGE HUGHES SAID. "I CERTAINLY WAS NOT LOOKING AT THE COLOR OF THE CEILING OR FLOWERS AND COUNDJT SAY WHAT THE COLOR OF THE SUIT WAS."

SECURITY AROUND THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE WAS EXTREMELY TIGHT FROM THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION UNTIL THE CRAFT TOOK OFF FOR WASHINGTON. DALLAS OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT SUCH A MAN AS DESCRIBED BY JUDGE HUGHES WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE EITHER A CITY DETECTIVE, WITH THE SECRET SERVICE OR FBI, OR A MEMBER OF EITHER THE KENNEDY OR JOHNSON ENTOURAGE.

NEITHER THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE BIBLE NOR THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN JUDGE HUGHES SPOKE OF IS KNOWN.

JJ/MM748PCS