Johnson **Guard's Act** Was Reflex

Washington, D. C. - UPI The secret service agent who shielded President Johnson with his body during the assassination of President Kennedy said Wednesday that he really had no inkling of what was happening at the time.

"I did not recognize the first shot as a shot," agent Rufus W. Youngblood said. "It could have been a firecracker, a bomb or a shot. I only recognized it as an abnormal sound.

But that was all that was needed to stir reflex actions in the well trained agent when President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas last Friday.

In the Dallas motorcade, there was only one car between Mr. Johnson's and Mr. Kennedy's.

When the shots were fired, Youngblood, a lithe 6 footer, reached over the seat and grabbed the shoulder of the vice-president, who was sitting behind him.

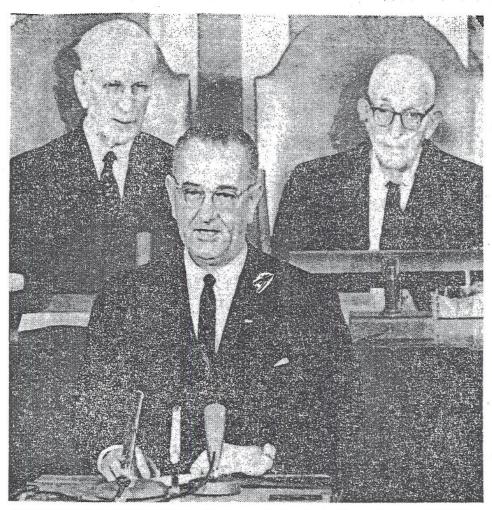
He shoved Mr. Johnson to the floor while yelling to Mrs. Johnson and Senator Ralph Yarborough (Dem., Tex.) to "get down."

Although everyone responded to his first yell, Youngblood said he recalled repeating it several times.

"I believe that at the same time I was coming over the back of the seat," Youngblood said. "I leaned my body over shielded Mr. Johnson with his Mr. Johnson and told the driver body, he and everyone else in to step on it. By this time we the car remained in the same were evacuating, so to speak."

for the driver, Herschel Jacks, Texas highway patrolman.

"He did a real good job," Youngblood said of Jacks. "I was talking to him all the time letter to Youngblood's superior,



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27, 1963. President Lyndon Johnson delivered his first message to a joint session of congress. In

the background were Representative Mc-Cormack and Senator Carl Hayden, president pro tem of the senate.

-UPI Telephotos

was responding."

Youngblood said that having position - below the window Youngblood had special praise line of the car - until they reached Parkland hospital, where Mr. Kennedy had been taken.

Mr. Johnson wrote a special

son. He wasn't talking, but he chief, to call attention to movements in the president's Youngblood's "valiant" action. (Kennedy) car also made me

"Upon hearing the first shot, react," Youngblood said. "I'm Mr. Youngblood instantly vault-not sure I reacted on the first ed across the front seat of my shot, between the first and the car, pushed me to the floor and second or on the second. shielded my body with his own body, ready to sacrifice his life shots had come from. I didn't for mine," Johnson said.

Youngblood said he felt he reacted to a combination of sight and sound.

"I heard three explosions but and I knew that an emergency I was leaning over Mr. John-James Rowley, secret service I think the quick, unusual existed."

"I had no idea where the even know what they were at the time. But I saw the quick

unusual movements up ahead and saw someone on the turtle (trunk lid) of that car up there