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**Subject:** AP Story On Secret Service Agent Lawsuit Against Author

AP 22-Aug-1996 10:03 EDT REF5128Copyright 1996. The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.The information contained in the AP news report may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or otherwise distributed without the prior written authority of The Associated Press. BALTIMORE (AP) -- A former Secret Service agent is suing a New York publisher for circulating a book claiming the agent killed President Kennedy. "We're trying to stop this now while Hickey's still alive," said George W. Hickey Jr.'s attorney, Mark S. Zaid. "He doesn't want his grandchildren growing up and hearing other children say, 'Hey, your grandfather killed the president of the United States.'" Hickey, 73, of Cecil County, Md., demanded unspecified damages and an apology printed in three newspapers in his libel lawsuit against St. Martin's Press of New York. The lawsuit was filed last week in Baltimore's federal court. In a 1992 book, "Mortal Error: The Shot that Killed JFK," Missouri journalist Bonar Menninger advanced the theory that Hickey, who was riding in a Secret Service limousine behind the president's car, slipped and accidentally fired his rifle, killing Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, the lawsuit said. An attorney for St. Martin's, David N. Kaye, said the case is meritless and "it's too late to sue." The book suggests that the first shot fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from a book depository hit the ground, not the president. A second shot hit the president in the neck and a third, fatal shot was fired from Hickey's rifle after the agent lost his balance in the car, the book claims. Menninger's theory was dismissed by the director of the JFK Assassination Center as "absolutely ridiculous," The Baltimore Sun reported today. Menninger was not named in the lawsuit.

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