

Joe Bartlett

Account of the Shooting

Memories of the shooting on the House Floor.

Interview recorded October 12, 2006

Well, it was a very upsetting experience. I had, was then reading clerk and had an armload of bills to take to the Senate and just stepped outside the center door on the way to the Senate when I heard what I thought was a stack of folding chairs falling over. Sounded exactly like that to me. Which, of course it was gunfire. Well, I immediately wheeled right back into the door and things were chaotic. It's funny the emotions that come to people at a time like that. Most common was the emotion of anger. How dare they do this? And, look what they've done to our friends or our colleagues. That was a real feeling of anger, wanting to get at them. That was an interesting reaction. There were the five Members who were wounded, were being treated in different ways there on the floor at that time very promptly. Of course they were all—well, they weren't all seriously, gravely wounded. Al Bentley was the only one who really was gravely wounded. All the others I think you said right off were not life threatening.