

September 11, 2001

Chaos

Outside the Capitol after the evacuation on September 11th.

Jim Mills, Senior Capitol Hill Producer, Fox News Channel

Interview recorded June 17, 2011

And that's where I stayed, outside the Library of Congress, on that corner, total chaos, sirens, roads are blocked, staffers are, a lot of Hill staff went home. Some went to any townhouses somebody might have had on Capitol Hill, others went to, up Pennsylvania Avenue, towards some of the bars, and the, the coffee shops, to set up sort of an office in transit. Some Members of Congress went to coffee shops. They were, you got the idea that there was no big plan in place for, you know, where we're supposed to go, in terms of a catastrophic event. I mean, that stuff came later. But at the time, it was total chaos, and I stayed where I was, basically because you couldn't really move anywhere else. Once you got planted, like I was, you couldn't move up and down First Street. Police were checking everybody. We, we got word that the Capitol Hill Police Headquarters over, toward Union Station, I think it's on D Street, that became a sort of a de facto briefing place for Members, because Members were all looking for information, and somehow they got the word to go to the Capitol Hill Police, and there were some sort of briefings going on over there. And we would see Members of Congress coming back from there, and we'd try to get bits of information, and I'm sure they were not telling us everything they could have, but you did get the idea that nobody really knew what was going on.