

The Honorable Paul Kanjorski
U.S. Representative of Pennsylvania (1985–2011)

Events: 1954 Shooting

Reflections on the Aftermath of the Shooting

Representative Kanjorski reflects on the aftermath of the attack.
Interview recorded October 26, 2011

They were up in the lobby, or not the lobby but the seating up one floor above the chamber, and then they quickly left and they were captured in the hall and some made it to Union Station, but they disappeared. There wasn't a great emphasis on rounding up the scoundrels. The emphasis really was getting the injured out and providing for them, particularly from our standpoint, we were there with them. But, and, and there wasn't the type of retribution that was expressed later on. You know we knew, I had concluded in my own mind, it was a horrendous thing that they had done, but I understood the political nature of what they had done. And not that it forgives them, but it puts a context of understanding. You know, it was different than what's happening today with radical activity, because at least they were shooting at a body that had somewhat the power to do something about what they were disturbed about. It wasn't blowing up a building with 3,000 people who didn't know from nowhere, and it was just an ability to get attention. It was quite different than the terrorism that we experience and see today.