

**Mike Michaelson**  
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**Events: 1954 Shooting**

**Witness to the Shooting**

Mike Michaelson explains the difficulties of being an eyewitness to the shooting in the House Chamber.  
*Interview recorded May 14, 2009*

When it was all over—this was around 2:00, 2:30 in the afternoon—when it was over. Excuse me, it was in minutes. The police came in—they weren't like they were today. They were scattered around the corridors of the Capitol, and they all rushed in, and they grabbed, they grabbed these people. There was one young man sitting over here to my right, by the door. He escaped and got out, and when they picked him up at the bus station, a little bit later, so all four were captured and tried. And I couldn't be a witness because I just couldn't remember. I couldn't really identify them because things happened so fast and I was far away and I couldn't—I could have—I guess I could have been a witness, but I didn't want to take a chance where I couldn't tell the truth, because I wasn't sure of the truth at the time. I couldn't really identify these people. I could only, only identify the action.