

Joseph Hillings

Assistant Journal Clerk for the Minority, U.S. House of Representatives

Events: 1954 Shooting

“Pop, Pop, Pop” “Ring, Ring, Ring”

Joseph Hillings remembers being in the Republican cloakroom as a House Page during the shooting.
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I was in the Republican cloakroom, either placing or receiving a call—calls. All of a sudden I heard, *pop, pop, pop*. There was a certain amount of verbal noise that was going on suddenly, besides the *pop, pop, pop*. I went right out to the rail. I can't remember who else was in the cloakroom besides me, because they were debating a Judiciary bill. I think it was on immigration. My brother was at the committee table. He was one of the people that was speaking on the bill. I went out on the rail. As I say, there was all kinds of chaos on the floor of the House and the phones suddenly started, *ring, ring, ring, ring*. Everything was lighting up. I think, what did we have, eight or nine telephones in there. Everything was lighting up. I was running and, “What's going on?” “There's a shooting on the floor of the House.” I remember saying that, “There's a shooting.” “Who's hit? Who's shot?” “I can't tell you a thing. I don't know. I'm inside the cloakroom.” I didn't know who was hit because we were down lower. So, we couldn't see over the railing and see what was happening.