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LB 439

about the third week that I was in the Legislature here, I had a constituent that came to my office. He came on two different occasions. He had also called into the office. And my legislative aide, fortunately...I am glad in his background he has been a bartender in Texas, because he recognized this guy as being potentially unstable, took him outside the building twice, and talked to him outside, just to get him to calm down. Dewey, in the red coat, you're my witness. He watched the back door there then. He came back. And he watched for when Dewey wasn't looking, because Dewey said he saw him with his hand on the door a couple of times, and then he took it away, and then he caught him not looking and he walked right out on the floor here. That guy sent a message, a little white slip of paper, up to me, written in very hard lead pencil: Senator Combs, if you do not come out and talk to me, I know where to find you. This guy was then taken away. We found out there was a warrant for his arrest. The State Patrol very kindly took him away in handcuffs when Dewey saw him out there. And whoever else helped him, thank God they did. I don't know what that guy, you know, had in mind for me. I didn't take it as a personal threat, but it kind of just went through me. This is kind of scary, you know? I got the red coats out here helping me. This guy had to be taken away in handcuffs by, not our security, but the State Patrolmen. After they testified in our hearing, I thanked the State Patrolmen. I went outside the hearing and thanked them for being there for me on that day. Now, that guy could even be watching on TV right now. And I hope he got help, because we several times tried to redirect him. I don't know what the disposition was of him after he left here. But I can tell you, that potential exists. I am not supporting this bill in view of the war, in view of 9-11. I'm supporting this bill in view of what happened to me personally in my third week of work here at the Capitol. So let's think about this in context. Let's not wait until something bad happens. Thank God we had Dewey. Thank God we had the State Patrol people here. You know, who knows what could have happened? But let's not throw the baby away with the bathwater, you know. I don't think we're overreacting. I have an actual incident that happened to me. It could happen to any of us in here. Felt a little bit uncomfortable, and went home and told my husband about it, several days later (laugh), so he wouldn't say, well, you know,