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TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION."



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TRANSCRIPT

BOB SCHIEFFER: Today on FACE THE NATION, an awful day in Tucson. But is it over and what does it portend.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: We are going to get to the bottom of this and we're going to get through this.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BOEHNER: An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serves.

BOB SCHIEFFER: A young Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords lies gravely wounded, shot through the head. At least, a dozen others are seriously hurt and Federal Judge John Roll and five others are dead--all victims of a deranged anti-government gunman, who opened fire at a Tucson grocery store, but why?

We'll talk to Congressman Giffords' Arizona colleague Senator Jon Kyl, the doctor who helped restrain the shooter, key members of the Congress and the Senate--New York's Chuck Schumer and Maryland's Steny Hoyer.

We'll bring in our CBS News team on the scene in Tucson and those working the story here in Washington.

I'll have some final thoughts on politics in a dangerous time.

But first, the latest details on the tragedy in Tucson on FACE THE NATION.

ANNOUNCER: FACE THE NATION with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer. And now from CBS News in Washington, Bob Schieffer.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And here is where the tragedy stands this morning at this hour. Federal Judge John Roll, a congressional staffer, a nine-year-old girl and three others are dead. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords clings to life in critical condition in a Tucson hospital, shot in the head, along with twelve others who were wounded by a twenty-two-year-old anti-government gunman, identified as Jared Loughner, who is in custody. Police are looking for a second unidentified man for reasons not yet clear. Flags are a half staff and congressional leaders have canceled next week's session which was to include a vote on repealing health care.

We begin this morning in Tucson with CBS News national correspondent Ben Tracy.

BEN TRACY: The shooting suspect lived just about ten minutes from this strip mall here, which is blocked off this morning. This, of course, is where this horrific event happened yesterday. And, you know, the more we learn about twenty-two-year-old Jared Loughner, the more troubled he seems. His friends and classmates are describing him as mentally unstable. They say in the recent weeks, he was often erratic. In fact, he was actually kicked out or at least suspended from his community college this fall and told to get a mental health evaluation. Now we also know that at some point he tried to enlist in the army but he was rejected. For privacy reasons the army cannot say why. But perhaps most telling is really a series of videos that he seems to have posted online. These are rambling, often incoherent. He talks about not being

able to trust the government, that the government is trying to use mind control and to brain wash people. But despite all of that investigators say there still is no real clear motive, no real reason why he would have specifically targeted Congresswoman Giffords. Bob.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Ben, what about this other person that the police call a-- a person of interest? What's that about?

BEN TRACY: Well, that's right, Bob. The investigators here in Tucson do say they are looking for a second person but what role if any he played in this event is still unknown. They believe that he may have been someone who actually accompanied Jared Loughner here to the strip mall yesterday, but at this point, we just don't know. Bob.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Ben Tracy in Tucson. Tucson Doctor Steven Rayle went to the shopping center where all this happened and where Congresswoman Giffords was holding an outdoor meeting. He walked up to a table where she was meeting with constituents and he told me earlier this morning what happened next.

DR. STEVEN RAYLE (Witness): I noticed her. I noticed that she was smiling and looked very relaxed. And I walked around to the side of the table. And at that point the shooting started and-- and continued. There was no pause in the shooting. He-- he fired at her and shot her in the head and then just continued shooting pointblank at the people that were around there.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Did he say anything?

DR. STEVEN RAYLE (overlapping): He did not say-- he did not say anything.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And then did you help to restrain or hold down the shooter? I mean, how-- how-- what happened to him?

DR. STEVEN RAYLE: It was a very chaotic scene. I went over there at some point to see if I could help. And, I-- I-- there's only a-- a couple people holding him down. So I-- I joined in and-- and put some pressure on him to stay on the ground.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Arizona Senator Jon Kyl is a friend of both the congresswoman and the federal judge. He-- he-- the judge had just dropped by to say hello, as we understand it, to Miss Giffords. Law enforcement sources tell us the shooter apparently was not aware the judge was there. Senator Kyl, it goes without saying, of course, that this was a terrible day for you and the people of Arizona as it was for the rest of the country. I-- I'm sure this is a day you will never forget.

SENATOR JON KYL (R-Arizona/Republican Whip): Yes. And-- and yesterday, when I first learned about it as events unfolded it just seemed incomprehensible in-- in its-- in its tragedy. Bob, could I just mention the names of the people who-- who've been killed here because I-- they all had to leave grieving families behind, and I-- I don't think it does justice just to say and others and-- Phyllis Scheck Dorothy Murray and Dorwin Stoddard all in their seventies. Dorwin was a church volunteer. Christina Greene, nine-year-old girl that you mentioned, Gabe Zimmerman, a thirty-year-old staffer for Representative Giffords, who incidentally-- the people on my staff-- I'm a Republican, she's Democrat. But they-- they loved Gabe and really enjoyed working with him, snuffed out at such an early age and then as you mentioned Judge John Roll. There's just not a finer person in the world. He leaves behind his wife Maureen and-- and three sons. John was not only the presiding judge of all of the Arizona federal district judges, but was

incredibly active in trying to improve the courts and make due with not enough judges in a very overloaded case situation here. We have one of the top three districts in terms of caseloads and it took a lot of his time to try to meet the responsibilities of-- of the court, especially with all of the drug and immigration cases. I just had lunch with him. In fact, we were going to have lunch again on Tuesday, but I-- I just have to say that first of all for those who were killed they leave behind grieving families and Judge Rolls loss is going to be particularly important for the Arizona Judiciary.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Senator, I'm very glad that you did bring up those names. Let me ask you this, senator. The sheriff of Pima County blamed the vitriolic political rhetoric that has consumed the country. That is his phrase for this happening. Do you feel that that was a part of this?

SENATOR JON KYL: First, I-- I didn't really think that that had any part in a-- in a-- in a law enforcement briefing last night. It was speculation and I don't think we should rush to speculate. I thought that the report that we just saw from Tucson seems to have it about right. We really don't know what motivated this-- this young person except to know that he was very mentally unstable as-- as was pointed out in the-- in-- in the piece and it's probably giving him too much credit to ascribe a coherent political philosophy to him. We just have to acknowledge that there's some mentally unstable people in this country. Who knows what motivates them to do what they do and then they could commit terrible crimes like this and I would just note Gabrielle Giffords, a-- a fine representative from Tucson, I-- I think would be the first to say don't-- don't rush to judgment here. She herself was a proponent of the Second Amendment. She read, as has been pointed out several times, the First Amendment part of the Constitution on the floor of the House the other day. And-- and she was doing what she likes to do most with her constituents. She-- she meets constituents all the time and she would not want to be restrained in any way from her ability to do that. So, I-- I think we should be a little careful about trying to jump to conclusions and-- and get lessons learned from this before we know all of the facts.

BOB SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, senator, I know this is going to be a very busy day for you. I want to thank you very much for joining us this morning. I want to turn now to--

SENATOR JON KYL (overlapping): Thank you, Bob.

BOB SCHIEFFER: --your colleague in the Senate, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York. Senator, I know you're on the Rules Committee. You're on the Judiciary Committee. I believe, you got a briefing this morning from the Capitol Police. What can you tell us?

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER (D-New York): Yes. Well, first, I just want to convey my hopes and prayers for those who are injured and the thoughts of the families-- with the families of those who have lost loved ones. Obviously, this is a terrible tragedy. It's an attack not just on those individuals but in a certain sense an attack on the system as was said yesterday. It's an American tragedy. I have been briefed by the Sergeant at Arms Terry Gainer and they are on top of this situation. They're coordinating very closely with the FBI, the Secret Service and the congressional leadership and doing whatever needs to be done. There have not been any increase in threats over the last few weeks or for that matter in the nearly twenty-four hours since the shooting and I have a great deal of faith and confidence in them. They are-- they have-- we-- there are handful of threats that are made every-- every month. They investigate them thoroughly almost inevitably. They tend to be people who are mentally unstable, not people with political motivation. In almost every case, those people make the threat but take no action and they're handled effectively and quietly. So I have a great deal of faith in the Capitol Police and the coordination with--

BOB SCHIEFFER (overlapping): All right.

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER: --other law enforcement. And I've told them if they need anything more, let us know and we'll do it for them.

BOB SCHIEFFER: All right. I want to come back to you, senator, but I want to go now to Steny Hoyer, the number two man in the Democratic leadership in the House. This was your friend or is your friend, the congresswoman. This cannot help but have a chilling effect on-- on lawmakers. Are your members worried? Are they shaken by this?

REPRESENTATIVE STENY HOYER (D-Maryland/Democratic Whip): I don't think there's any doubt but my colleagues are-- are very concerned about the-- the environment in which they're now operating. It's-- it's been a much angrier, confrontational en-- environment over the last two or three years than we have experienced in the past. And I think there is worry about that. I will tell you also that the staffers-- and we-- we should not forget that a staff member was lost here. Interestingly enough or tragically enough, ironically enough, the community outreach person on Miss Giffords' staff, Mister Zimmerman lost his life. So, yes, Bob, I think members and staff are shaken by this event. I-- I-- I share Miss-- Speaker Boehner's view and the views that have been expressed by the two United States senators. This is not simply an attack on Miss Giffords. This is an attack on democracy itself, on the ability, as she said in that reading of the First Amendment, to peaceably assemble, to come together to talk to one another, that's what democracy is all about--representatives listening to their constituents and trying to reflect their views.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Well, you know, Congresswoman Giffords had received threats before. That's something that we might have overlooked here. Her office was trashed during the health care debate. And when she showed up on Sarah Palin's Political Action Committee website as one of those who had been targeted for this defeat-- the-- it shows her in the crosshairs there. She warned herself that this kind of thing could have serious repercussions. Let's listen.

REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE GIFFORDS (D-Arizona, MSNBC): We need to realize that the rhetoric and firing people up and, you know, even things, for example, we're on Sarah Palin's targeted list, but the thing is that the way that she has it depicted has the crosshairs of a gun site over our district. When people do that, they've got to realize, there's consequences to that action.

BOB SCHIEFFER: There you are--

REPRESENTATIVE STENY HOYER: And that's of course what the sheriff said. And I think the sheriff was right. One of the things that you and I have discussed, Bob, when-- when you and I grew up, we grew up listening to a set of three major news outlets--NBC, ABC, and, of course, CBS. Most of the people like Walter Cronkite and Eric Sevareid, Huntley-Brinkley and they saw their job as to inform us of the facts and we would make a conclusion. Far too many broadcasts now and so many outlets have the intent of inciting-- of inciting people to opposition, to anger, to thinking the other side is less than moral. And I think that is a context in which somebody who is mentally unbalanced can somehow feel justified in taking this kind of action. And-- and I think we need to all take cognizance of that and be aware that what we say can, in fact, have consequences.

BOB SCHIEFFER: I want to bring in Bob Orr, our Justice Department correspondent now. Bob, you've been checking this story, working this story from-- from here in Washington talking to Justice Department officials. Where are they in this investigation? Do they feel they got the guy? Do they think there's somebody else involved? Where does this go from here?

BOB ORR (Justice and Homeland Security Correspondent): They're certain they have the guy. I mean, we have a lot of witnesses. We have surveillance tape showing Jared Lee Loughner with the gun. He clearly was the gunman and the sole gunman. He told investigators initially that he acted alone and then he invoked his Fifth Amendment rights and has now refused to cooperate any further. It's interesting though, the sheriff last night in Tucson mentioned this second person of interest. And that's a bit of a mystery as to who this person is. But I've been told now that this person, described as a white male in his forties or fifties was seen with Loughner prior to the shootings in the vicinity, perhaps in one of the stores there. He's been seen on the surveillance camera. So the authorities simply want to find out, did he know about this, did he have any role whatsoever, did-- perhaps he drive Loughner to the scene? But I'm told that he is not a gunman, and in that sense, not a suspect.

BOB SCHIEFFER: I find this very interesting. We have-- find these people that are always described as deranged and so forth. But they always seem to be smart enough to know not to-- when to stop talking?

BOB ORR: Yeah, and you know the other thing is the congresswoman yesterday morning sent out a tweet that she was going to have this town meeting on the corner of the supermarket. And the belief among investigators is that perhaps Loughner saw that because when he went to the crowd, the only person he could have known who was going to be there was the congresswoman. He didn't know about the other folks that might show up. And he went right through the crowd, directly to her and targeted her. So there's no doubt here that she was the intended target and unfortunately, the other folks in the crowd, including Judge Roll just were perhaps in the wrong place at the wrong time.

MAN: All right.

BOB SCHIEFFER: We're going to take a break here. I want to come you want to come back and talk to all of you. Also, bring in Jan Crawford, our-- our legal correspondent and Nancy Cordes our congressional correspondent on where this story goes from here.

We'll be back in one minute.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

BOB SCHIEFFER: And we're back now. I-- I want to go back to Senator Schu-- Schumer who is in New York. Senator, is this going to change the way that Congress does business? What-- what

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER: Well, you know, maybe in a certain sense this terrible tragedy can import tune us to take a time out, to look each of us into ourselves and remember the shared values that we really do all have. And one of the grandest of American values is debate. It can be strong debate. But it should always be civil. And when a shooting like this occurs, it sends a deep chill down the spine of the body politics. And maybe what we should be doing now is in a certain sense this might, this terrible tragedy could be an opportunity for us to come together over our shared values. Hopefully, that might happen.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Nancy Cordes, you're on Capitol Hill this morning. And this is your beat. You spent most of yesterday talking to members. What sort of reaction are you getting from people up there?

NANCY CORDES (Congressional Correspondent): Well, of course, there's the sadness about what has happened to Congresswoman Giffords and all the other people who were there with her that day. You know, going out into the community and meeting with constituents is the life blood of members of the House of Representatives. They hold hundreds of events like this. This is how they get to know their constituents. This is how they get re-elected. So it's not really an option for members of Congress to barricade themselves in their offices and retreat from public life. This is what they are about. And it does make members afraid. You know, many people don't realize that almost all of the members of the House of Representatives don't have any security, except for the leaders at the very top. It would be just prohibitively expensive to give these four hundred thirty-five members security around the clock. And so, they are in a sense taking their lives into their hands when they go out into the community, especially in this politically-charged environment where so much violent rhetoric, violent imagery is becoming commonplace sending a message perhaps to the less stable among us that we consider our opponents, not just people with whom we disagree but actually our enemies.

BOB SCHIEFFER: I want to bring in Jan Crawford, our chief legal correspondent now. Jan, it appears that the judge was killed just because he happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I'm told he was coming to say hello to his friend, the congresswoman. Apparently, the shooter did not know that-- that he was a judge.

JAN CRAWFORD (Chief Legal Correspondent): You know that's exactly right. He was just one of these, kind of cruel twists of coincidence that he was there. That's what authorities are reporting now. But I think it's important to also remember as Congressman Hoyer said when you think about threats that are escalating, judges are not immune from this either. The Justice Department released a report last year that showed threats have sharply escalated, more than doubling in the past six years. And it could be they speculate as a result of some of the internet-fueled talk and passion, you're also seeing that directed to judges. And, of course, Judge Roll also was a target of death threats just two years ago when he issued an unpopular ruling for some illegal immigrants who were trying to sue an Arizona rancher. He got security detail. So, this is not something that's just an isolated target to politicians in this day and age. Judges too are coming under attack.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Bob, I understand you have just gotten new information.

BOB ORR: Well, we should say that Loughner has made threats in the past. The sheriff last night made a point of saying police knew this guy. He had made these threats, general in nature, not specific. He had not been arrested for them, so they didn't have anything that was actionable. But we do know from our sources and from our national security analyst Juan Zarate that Loughner had an interaction once before with Congresswoman Giffords back in 2007, where he apparently posed a question to her, a kind of a benign question. She answered the question. He didn't find it acceptable. And he didn't like the answer. And in the time since then, investigators believe perhaps he was tracking her and-- and targeting her in a very loose way. We want to be careful here to say that as far as we know there was not specific intelligence that he intended to do anything yesterday. It's not like someone missed a blinking red light here.

BOB SCHIEFFER: What do we expect, Jan, on the judicial front? Is there going to be a move now to see that the federal judges get more security?

JAN CRAWFORD: Well, there already have been. And, obviously, some retired justices, Justice O'Connor have really pushed this in talking about judicial independence, are worried about these threats. This all really was fueled back in 2005, Bob, if you remember that tragic case out of Chicago, when the husband and mother of a federal judge there were murdered after she had ruled against a defendant, refused to allow a man's lawsuit to go forward. He killed her husband and mother. So we saw the concern really begin to kind of coalesce around the judges at that point. Hundreds of judges now get twenty-four-hour protection and others that who have not gotten these direct specific threats have really changed their lives. They drive to work different routes every day to avoid being followed. They've installed security systems in their homes, so this is an ongoing concern for the Judiciary.

REPRESENTATIVE STENY HOYER: Bob, if I can add, I talked to Mark Kelly, Gabby's husband who is an astronaut. Very angry, very angry about the level of angry rhetoric that he believes incites people not only if this Loughner targeted Gabby in particular but to target those in authority, whether they be judges, members of Congress, local officials, generically, to make their anger pointedly heard. And, of course, this allows that. We're going to have to find out exactly what the motivation here was. But I think all of us as Chuck Schumer was saying on-- on-- in politics and in the media, in the public square, fashion our rhetoric so that it does not incite but informs and yes can differ but can differ in a way that is civil and consistent with our democracy's efforts.

BOB SCHIEFFER: About thirty seconds left. Senator Schumer, do you see a time when congressmen, just members of Congress, are going to have to have security wherever they go as sometimes federal judges now do?

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER: Well, we obviously have to keep people safe. That's for sure. But there also has to be a balance, because one of the hallmarks of our democracy is being able to go out and meet people and hear what they have to say and let them bring their grievances for us. That was part of the First Amendment that Congresswoman Giffords read on the floor. So we're going to have to look into it but we're going to have to remember there has to be a balance.

BOB SCHIEFFER: All right. I want to thank all of you so much for coming to the broadcast this morning.

Back with some final thoughts of my own in a moment.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

BOB SCHIEFFER: Finally today, we live as we were reminded yesterday in a dangerous hair-trigger time when tempers always seem near the boiling point and patience seems a lost trait. Democracy's arguments have never been pretty but technology has changed the American dialogue because we can now know of problems instantly. We expect answers immediately and when we don't get them, we let everyone know in no uncertain terms. We scream and shout, hurl charges without proof. Those on the other side of the argument become not opponents but enemies. Dangerous inflammatory words are used with no thought of consequence. All's fair if it makes the point, worse some make great profit just fanning the flames which wouldn't amount to much if the words reached only the sane and the rational but the new technology ensures a

larger audience, those with sick and twisted minds hear us too and are sometimes inflamed by what the rest of us often discard as hollow and silly rhetoric and so violence becomes part of the argument. In an eloquent statement, the new Republican House Speaker John Boehner said yesterday's attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve. But it is much more. It is an attack on each and every one of us and our way of life. If elected officials cannot meet with those who have elected them without fear of being shot, if the rest of us allow such a situation to exist, then we are no longer the America that those who came before us fought and died to protect and defend. We must change the atmosphere in which this happened and we can begin by remembering that words have consequence. Like all powerful things they must be used carefully more and more we seem to have forgotten that.

Back in a minute.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

BOB SCHIEFFER: Stay with CBS News for late developments on this story. That's our time. We'll see you next week right here on FACE THE NATION.

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