

NYT
3-15-80



EX-REP. LOWENSTEIN KILLED BY A GUNMAN

Antiwar Leader Shot at Law Office — Former Co-Worker Is Held

Allard K. Lowenstein, who led the 1968 movement to block the re-election of President Lyndon B. Johnson, was shot yesterday at his Rockefeller Center law office and died seven hours later.

The gunman — identified by the police as Dennis Sweeney, a longtime acquaintance with a recent history of mental illness — waited calmly, seated on a chair in the anteroom of the office, until he was arrested. He was booked last night and taken to Bellevue Hospital for observation.

The 51-year-old former United States Representative was rushed to St. Clare's Hospital, where he died late last night after doctors operated for hours to close two bullet wounds in his heart and remove an injured lung. The police said that seven shots had been fired and that five had hit Mr. Lowenstein.

Met During Early 60's

Friends said that Mr. Sweeney, 37, had met Mr. Lowenstein at Stanford University in the early 1960's and had worked with him in the civil-rights movement in the South in the next few years. In recent years they had reportedly become politically and personally antagonistic.

The arresting officer, Robert Burke, said Mr. Sweeney had told him that Mr. Lowenstein had caused problems for his family that had led to the death of his stepfather after a heart attack in Oregon.

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last month. Another officer said Mr. Sweeney had complained of unfair pressure by Mr. Lowenstein in a lawsuit brought by a client against the stepfather.

Mr. Lowenstein, who was elected in 1968 to a term as a Representative from Long Island and who later served in various posts at the United Nations, was a member of the law firm of Layton & Sherman, with offices on the ninth floor of 50 Rockefeller Plaza, at 51st Street.

The gunman, dressed in jeans and a zippered blue jacket, walked into the offices shortly before 4 P.M., according to police officers, and shook hands with Mr. Lowenstein. Then they talked briefly.

After the visitor had been there about five minutes, shots were heard, accord-

Victor Lasinchi
Allard K. Lowenstein



Associated Press
Policemen and attendants carrying Allard K. Lowenstein to an ambulance

ing to a telephone installer who had been working in the offices.

"I heard screams and then pops — three or four," he said.

Then, he said, Mr. Sweeney walked out of the inner office, put his nine-millimeter pistol on a secretary's desk, lighted a cigarette and sat down.

Another of the telephone crew said: "One of our telephone guys picked up the gun and put it in the office in case the guy went berserk. It was weird. That guy did not say one word."

When the police arrived, they said later, Rockefeller Center security personnel already had Mr. Sweeney in handcuffs. He was taken to the 54th Street precinct house.

An emergency medical technician, Paul Giblin, who had arrived by 4:10 P.M., said Mr. Lowenstein had been lying face up on the floor, with a nurse bent over him.

People crowded around, some sobbing.

"I saw some shallow breathing, and he had a weak pulse," Mr. Giblin said.

Five Hours in Surgery

By 4:58 P.M., Mr. Lowenstein was taken into surgery at St. Clare's. Over the next five hours, a team of nine doctors worked on him, according to Dr. William F. Mitty Jr., chairman of the department of surgery at the hospital, at Ninth Avenue and 51st Street.

The doctor said there were two wounds in the heart, one an inch and a half wide, a hole in the diaphragm and injuries to the left lung, which was removed.

Late in the evening, Dr. Mitty appeared in the hospital lobby, his surgical mask lowered from his face, and said that Mr. Lowenstein had died shortly after 11 P.M. "His heart just failed to continue to pump," Dr. Mitty said.

Just before the announcement, friends and associates of Mr. Lowenstein wandered into the lobby, their faces stricken and pale. Drew Connolly, who said he had worked in past campaigns with Mr. Lowenstein, said a group of about 50 friends and family members had been informed in a conference room. "They broke into tears," he said, "held one another and began singing folk songs from the civil rights movements of the 1960's."

From one of the songs, by Peter, Paul and Mary — a theme song for them, Mr. Connolly said — they sang:

"Weave, weave, weave into the sunshine, into the pouring rain.

"We will be the hope of a new tomorrow. Fill my cup again."

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, whom Mr. Lowenstein had been supporting actively, was told about the shooting in Chicago, where he was campaigning. He described Mr. Lowenstein as "a man of enormous concern about this country and about the cause of peace and the cause of social justice."

He added: "Once again, we've seen violence in our society. As one whose family has been touched by violence, I deplore this senseless act."

The Senator flew to New York and came to the hospital, entering through a back entrance at midnight.

Mayor Koch, who also came to the hospital late night, spoke in subdued tones. "I met Al Lowenstein in the late 1950's," he said. "He was an extraordinary man — very gentle, educated. Everything he

did was decent."

A 26-year-old lawyer, Jeffrey Bloom, who said he had known Mr. Lowenstein since 1968, when he began "stuffing envelopes" for him at the age of 13, said: "The guy was a pied piper. He really worked magic. Why would somebody shoot a man who spent the last two decades telling us to put down guns and to learn to speak to each other." Rubbing tears from his eyes, he said: "On my walls I have two posters — one of Bobby Kennedy and one of Al Lowenstein. And now they're both gone."

The police said that Mr. Sweeney, now

a carpenter living at 33 Granite Drive in New London, Conn., had bought the Spanish-made gun on March 11 for \$120 at Raub's Gun Shop near his home.

At 10:40 P.M., after having been questioned uptown, Mr. Sweeney was brought to One Police Plaza for booking on charges of attempted murder and weapons possession. When Mr. Lowenstein died, the charge automatically became murder.

Lieut. Richard Gallagher, chief of detectives in Midtown North, said that the suspect was "coherent" but that "he makes rambling statements about what caused him to do it."

"He had a grudge against Allard Lowenstein," he said, "real or imagined."

The two men were friends at Stanford University in the early 1960's, according to David Harris, a friend of theirs from the draft-resistance movement. Mr. Sweeney was a student and Mr. Lowenstein, a teacher, was "a hero to him," Mr. Harris said.

Later, they worked together in the civil-rights movement in the 1960's. But their paths diverged.

Mr. Lowenstein went on to become the main architect of the 1968 anti-Vietnam War movement to deny the Democratic nomination to President Johnson, persuading Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota to run against the President on a "peace" platform in New Hampshire. Mr. McCarthy lost but he ran so well that Mr. Johnson eventually withdrew from the race.

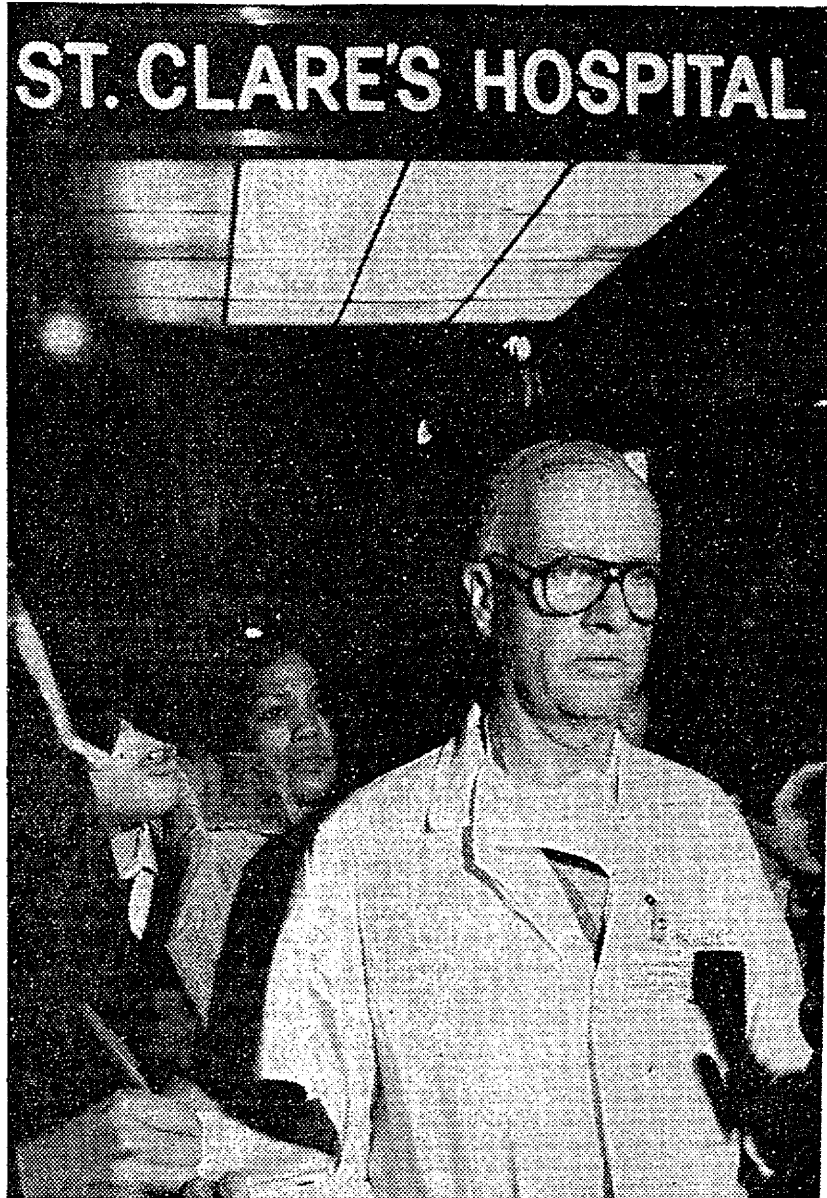
Later that year, Mr. Lowenstein won election to Congress himself. He was defeated two years later and again in several other unsuccessful Congressional races, most recently in 1978 for the seat on Manhattan's East Side that Edward I. Koch left to become Mayor.

Mr. Sweeney, who continued his work in the draft-resistance movement, confronted a dramatic, and ultimately upsetting, decision, according to Mr. Harris.

As the only surviving son of a serviceman who was killed in a military airplane crash, he was offered an exemption from the draft when he was called himself. He

had to decide whether he should take the exemption or refuse to be drafted and go to jail. Mr. Harris said that Mr. Sweeney had taken the exemption and that, soon afterwards, he had developed "mental problems."

Gregg Craig, a Washington lawyer and friend of Mr. Lowenstein's, said that at the Americans for Democratic Action convention in Washington last fall, Mr. Lowenstein told him he was "seriously worried about Dennis's mental state."



The New York Times / Edward Hausner

Dr. William F. Mitty Jr., head of the surgery department at St. Clare's Hospital, commenting last night on the condition of Allard K. Lowenstein.



PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

The New York Times/Larry C. Morris

Dennis Sweeney, center, suspect in shooting, being taken last night from Manhattan's 54th Precinct station for booking