

# An Ebullient Advocate of Social Justice

By CAREY WINFREY

Allard K. Lowenstein first came to national attention as the architect of Eugene McCarthy's impressive showing against President Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1968 New Hampshire primary election.

It was Mr. Lowenstein, then a professor of constitutional law at the City University of New York, known at the time as City College, who canvassed the country in search of a Democratic Presidential candidate opposed to the war in Vietnam, and, after failing to persuade George McGovern or Robert F. Kennedy to run, he persuaded Senator McCarthy to do so. Although the Minnesota Senator lost New Hampshire and ultimately the nomination, Mr. Johnson withdrew from the race.

But Mr. Lowenstein's ebullient — some would say, frenetic — style of advocacy for the underdog had been established years before. As a student at the University of North Carolina in the 1940's, he was active in the nascent civil rights movement. While he was earning a law degree at Yale University, he telephoned so many people in search of support for various causes that New Haven telephone operators knew his telephone number from memory. As a young lawyer, he worked on behalf of Adlai E. Stevenson and championed the case for independence for South-West Africa, now Namibia, at the United Nations. He once smuggled a South-West African dissident out of the country in the trunk of his car.

He attracted a large body of followers of all ages, but particularly the young. Although he continued to support Senator McCarthy after Robert Kennedy entered the Presidential race in 1968, Mr. Lowenstein's emotional allegiance shifted to Mr. Kennedy, a longtime friend. Only minutes before Mr. Kennedy was assassinated in a Los Angeles hotel kitchen, he told an aide to place a telephone call to Mr. Lowenstein. Mr. Lowenstein was waiting for the call when he learned that Mr. Kennedy had been shot.

## Elected to Congress in 1968

Mr. Lowenstein was elected to Congress as a Democrat representing Long Island's Fifth District in 1968. He was defeated two years later after many liberal and Jewish voters were redistricted onto other voting rolls. He has subsequently

run six times for Congress and failed to win. In his last attempt, running in 1978 for the seat vacated by Edward I. Koch when he became Mayor of New York, Mr. Lowenstein's campaign literature boasted that he had been No. 7 on President Nixon's "enemies list." He was defeated in the Democratic primary that year by Carter Burden, who eventually lost the race to S. William Green, the Republican candidate.

He served in 1976 as a key adviser to Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California in Mr. Brown's belated Presidential bid. The next year, Mr. Lowenstein was appointed by President Carter to be the United States representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Later in 1977, he became the United States Alternative Representative for United Nations Special Political Affairs.

He was active this year in Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Presidential effort and campaigned for him in Florida before the Democratic Presidential primary last Tuesday. He told friends he was considering another run for Congress himself.

## 'The People Who Are Left Out'

"As a kid," Mr. Lowenstein once told an interviewer, "I was always being beaten up and I was funny looking and ended up feeling left out. I find I can always identify with the people who are left out."

An American diplomat who worked with him recently at the United Nations described Mr. Lowenstein as "a man with a remarkable ability to talk to both sides in almost any diplomatic dispute." The diplomat added that Mr. Lowenstein had little understanding or patience with bureaucracy, "but he was always a superb gadfly."

After he left the Government in 1978 to return to private law practice, he continued to travel, particularly to Africa, where he sought to help mediate a peaceful solution in Rhodesia. Some State Department officials said his efforts had made that task more difficult, but friends insisted that he helped bring about Rhodesia's current settlement.

Mr. Lowenstein was born in Newark on Jan. 16, 1929, and grew up in Westchester County. His father, a teacher at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, gave up medicine for a successful

restaurant business, a decision, Mr. Lowenstein once said, his father "regretted the rest of his life."

## Political Career Dates to '49

The son's political career began in 1949 when he went to work as a legislative assistant to North Carolina Senator Frank Graham, after whom he named one of his three children. His second son, Thomas Kennedy, was named for Norman Thomas and Robert F. Kennedy. A daughter, Katherine Eleanor, was named for Eleanor Roosevelt. Mr. Lowenstein is divorced from the former Jennie Lyman, whom he married in 1966.

Mr. Lowenstein left Senator Graham's employ to assume the presidency of the National Student Association. He was chairman of Students for Stevenson in 1962 and later that year took a job at the United Nations with Mrs. Roosevelt.

"He is a person of unusual ability and complete integrity," she once wrote about him. "I think he will always fight crusades because injustice fills him with a sense of rebellion."

In 1960, Mr. Lowenstein briefly sought a Congressional seat from Manhattan and, failing, went on to spend several years teaching law and politics at Stanford University in California, at North Carolina State and at City College. It is believed that it was at Stanford that Mr. Lowenstein first met Dennis Sweeney, the man accused of killing him.

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