

## ***A Judge Finds Suspect In Lowenstein Slaying Was 'Not Responsible'***

The former civil-rights activist who fatally shot Allard K. Lowenstein was found "not responsible" for the crime "by reason of mental disease or defect" in a court hearing yesterday in Manhattan and will not have to stand trial.

As a result, the activist, Dennis Sweeney, who was accused of shooting the former Congressman during a meeting last March 14 at Mr. Lowenstein's law office in Rockefeller Center, will probably be institutionalized at the Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center in Accord, N. Y., according to his attorney, Jesse Zaslav.

At the hearing in State Supreme Court, Acting Justice Brenda Soloff closely questioned the 37-year-old, one-time protégé of Mr. Lowenstein about whether he understood the meaning of the plea before she accepted it.

### **Further Hearing March 23**

Justice Soloff directed that Mr. Sweeney undergo additional psychiatric examination before she considers the formal step of committing him to the custody of the State Department of Mental Hygiene at a hearing March 23.

Under an amendment to the New York State Criminal Procedure Law that went into effect last September, the plea of "not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect" replaced the plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity," and elaborate procedures were set up to consider the issue.

Under the law, Mr. Sweeney could be hospitalized for life, or until it is determined that he has been cured.

A panel of three psychiatrists had concluded that Mr. Sweeney suffered from a "schizophrenic reaction of the paranoid type."

Mr. Zaslav said Mr. Sweeney believed Mr. Lowenstein was controlling his thought patterns and was responsible for the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Thurman Munson, the baseball catcher who died in a plane crash last August.

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