

About Allard Lowenstein

Allard Lowenstein spent many of his 51 years combating violence and irrationality and pleading for sanity in relations among people and nations.

His commitment to social justice was deep and enduring. But it was accompanied by an unwavering tolerance for those who differed with him, and an insistent refusal to regard any conflict as beyond the realm of conciliation.

The gracious, gentle nature of the man gave a special aspect of tragedy to the aberrant circumstances under which he met sudden death.

It has often been said that the measure of a person's life is how many are truly grieved by word of his passing. In those terms, Lowenstein has achieved the almost in-

stant immortality of an ecumenical, widespread feeling of loss.

The obituaries noted that he won only one election and lost several others. But he was no "loser." Indeed, he was continuing proof of how much one man could shape much history — often in ways that never attained any headlines.

He walked many lonely roads, and more than once transformed impossible dreams into reality.

Most of all he left a sense that his had been a special, concerned presence with a hand always outstretched to the defenseless and the oppressed — and to his adversaries.

One does not evaluate by any conventional political box-score the life of this man for all seasons.