

Lowenstein rite—gathering of the '60s

By MARK LIFF and MARCIA KRAMER

They came together yesterday, survivors of the '60s—the antiwar activists, the folk singers and the politicians—and though they were older and grayer, it was not much different from a Vietnam war-era rally. But in an important way, it wasn't the same.

That's because they came to bury former Rep. Allard K. Lowenstein.

Lowenstein was their folk leader and their hero, the man who marched with them in Mississippi in 1964 so that blacks could vote, the man who campaigned with them in the snows of New Hampshire in 1968 to stop the war, and the man who wouldn't even turn away a former companion who had gone astray.

"He was everywhere—the man who lived for others," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy in a moving tribute. "In the end, this broke him."

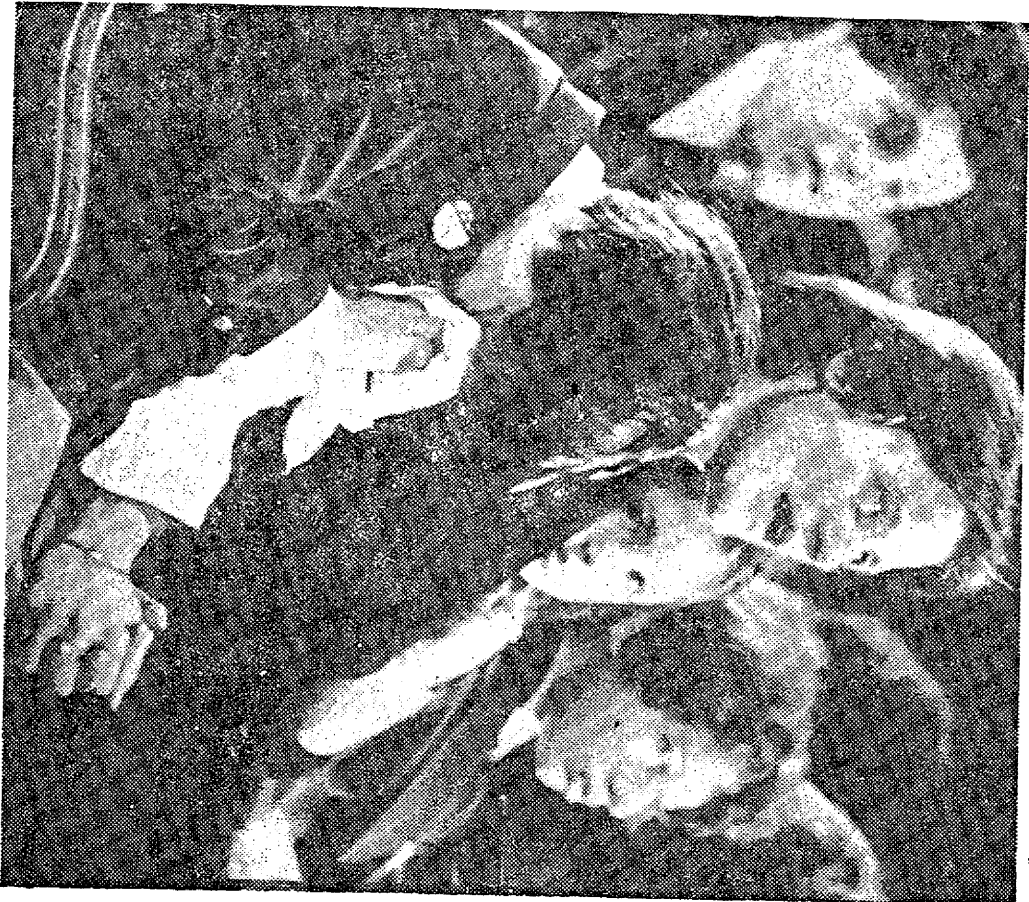
There were 2,500 friends in the high-vaulted chapel of the Central Synagogue on E. 55th St., who gathered to remember the man who would kick off his shoes, take off his thick-lensed glasses and talk politics till all hours of the night.

"He was in our time the original activist, such was his impatience with the tolerance of injustice," said conservative columnist William F. Buckley Jr.

Lowenstein's body lay in the front of the chapel in a simple pine coffin adorned with gardenias, daffodils and other spring flowers, and yet it was hard to think of yesterday's rite as a funeral. It was more a coming together of friends, with shared remembrances of shared struggles, and they came to grieve and remember with Al Lowenstein's family.

During the ceremony, singer Harry Chapin scribbled some notes to explain his relationship with Lowenstein, which began in Lowenstein's 1970 congressional campaign.

Then, going to the lectern and turning to Lowenstein's family—his former wife, Jennie Littlefield, and his children, Kath-



Harry Hambers/Daily News
Allard K. Lowenstein's former wife, Jennie Littlefield, with children, Thomas, Kathryn and Frank at funeral service in Central Synagogue yesterday.

Lowenstein case: Probe response

Emergency medical service investigators are trying to determine why a highly specialized life-saving ambulance unit was not available to rush to the aid of wounded former Representative Allard Lowenstein.

The Daily News has learned that Lowenstein, who was fatally wounded last Friday in his office, was taken to St. Clare's hospital in a city ambulance, which was capable of administering only basic life-support service.

Investigators are checking duty schedules—in addition to 911 tapes—to determine the availability at the time of the shooting of its paramedic ambulances, which are equipped with sophisticated medical technology such as electric-shock devices and intravenous solutions, and are likened to roving emergency rooms.

—Murray Weiss

ryn Eleanor, Frank Graham and Thomas Kennedy. Lowenstein—he told them how difficult it will be for them to forget their dad.

Pausing in his musical tribute, "All My Life's a Circle," Chapin said: "People will come up to you later on and tell you they knew your father. That's the circle I'm talking about."

There were many others who eulogized

Lowenstein from the pulpit, including Rabbi Alexander Schindler, head of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, folk singer Peter Yarrow, Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Calif.), Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr. (D-Ind.) and a nephew, Douglas Lowenstein, a newspaper reporter in Washington.

And then there were those who eulogized him from the pews—in silent devotion to a friend they loved.

One of those sitting in the pews was Rep. Thomas Downey (D-Suffolk), who commented on the irony of Lowenstein's death.

"To have him die in a violent way when he was the archangel of peace was the ultimate irony," he said.

Just as the pallbearers were carrying Lowenstein's coffin out of the synagogue to the strains of Yarrow and with the congregation singing "Weave Me the Sunshine," a Manhattan grand jury was indicting Dennis Sweeney in his murder.

Lowenstein will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery today in a private interment rite.