

Another Leading Conservative Is Backing Lowenstein in His Race for a Seat in House

By GEORGE VECSEY

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MINEOLA, L.I.—Can Allard K. Lowenstein be saved?

Can he exorcise the "left-wing" label he has acquired over the years, and become a Congressional candidate acceptable to the Republican and Conservative Party pluralities in southwest Nassau County?

"In my religion I believe in redemption," remarked Ernest van den Haag, the latest rightward-leaning dignitary to endorse former Representative Lowenstein's new bid for a seat in Congress.

Dr. van den Haag, an author and educator and once a Conservative Party candidate for the State Assembly, is thereby endorsing the founder of the movement to "dump" President Lyndon B. Johnson, critic of the Vietnam war, leader of Americans for Democratic Action, former Congressman, supporter of Israel, recently an aide to Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California and a man who proudly said he was "No. 7 on Nixon's 'enemies' list."

Mr. Lowenstein is once again challenging the six-term Republican incumbent, John W. Wydler, in the Fifth District. Two years ago Mr. Wydler beat Mr. Lowenstein by nearly 15,000 votes shortly after the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

But this time around, Mr. Lowenstein has been endorsed by none other than William F. Buckley, the rightist writer, who in his syndicated column a month ago praised what he called Mr. Lowenstein's "extraordinary integrity and sense of justice."

Later, Mr. Lowenstein was endorsed by Leonard Garment, who was a lawyer for President Nixon during the Watergate inquiries, and by Rita Hauser, national co-chairman of the Committee to Re-Elect the President in 1972. Mr. Lowenstein said he and they had become friends during campaigns for Israel and other causes over the years.

"If they want to do penance for supporting Nixon, they are welcome on board," Sheila Cayton, an aide of Mr. Lowenstein, said with a smile.

Dr. van den Haag has acknowledged that Mr. Lowenstein was "right" about Vietnam and President Nixon, but also said it was not a matter of "right-left labels."

"I disagree with Al on many issues," said Dr. van den Haag, a professor at New York University and an authority on criminal justice. "But I respect his conscience, and believe this is the kind of man who ought to be in Congress."

It is hard to judge the impact of these endorsements from non-residents in a suburb where there is hardly any trace of political enthusiasm, national or local.

Their positions are often diametrically opposed since Mr. Lowenstein, in his one term as a Representative from 1968 to 1970, usually had a 100 percent liberal rating from Americans for Democratic



John W. Wydler



Allard K. Lowenstein

Action and Mr. Wydler was recently given a 78 percent conservative rating by the Americans for Constitutional Action.

Mr. Wydler visits the district on weekends, while Mr. Lowenstein appears whenever he can. His campaign, as usual, is beefed up by young people from outside the district—at least 12 from New York City and nine from out of the state, according to Paul Tully, a campaign aide.

These young people, who receive only a meal a day and few other expenses, have sought to increase voter registration, and Mr. Tully asserts that 13,000 of the 19,000 new registrations in the district were either Democratic or independent. He says that Republicans have dropped below 50 percent in the district for the first time in many years.

In 1974 Mr. Lowenstein spent more than double Mr. Wydler's listed campaign expenditures—\$112,000 to \$50,000. But Mr. Lowenstein charges that Mr. Wydler more than made up for that with his mail-franking privileges and other benefits of an incumbent.

This year, Mr. Wydler has raised \$45,000 through donations, mostly from a "Congressional Club" of 100 district residents who paid \$200 apiece. Carl Holman, an insurance executive, who is Mr. Wydler's finance chairman, said there was virtually no money from outside the district.

Mr. Lowenstein has raised \$51,000 so far, from 614 district donors and 481 other donors (including 245 from California), according to Mr. Tully. Governor Brown of California spent 11 hours raising funds on Long Island on Aug. 30. And Mr. Lowenstein obviously hopes that endorsements from other nonresident celebrities will help him further.

"These are just glamour testimonials," Mr. Wydler said earlier this week. "It's like saying O. J. Simpson drives a Plymouth. That has nothing to do with whether Plymouth is a good car or not."

Mr. Wydler, assistant to John Rhodes

of Arizona, the minority floor leader of the House, was interviewed in Washington earlier this week.

"These endorsements are all theory," Mr. Wydler said, "and if politics is all theory, what am I doing working hard at meetings all week? This job is not an exchange of ideas. This is where you produce hard results, work things out. This is not Neyer-Never Land."

Mr. Wydler called the William Buckley endorsement "kind of weird—somebody is fooling somebody" and said "I've got the Buckley I want." [James L. Buckley, Republican Senator, hurriedly endorsed Mr. Wydler after William Buckley's column.]

Regarding the Garment-Hauser endorsements, Mr. Wydler said: "It would be hypocritical to raise Watergate as an issue now that he's got those two for him."

But Mr. Lowenstein is still calling Mr. Wydler "the last man to jump ship" just before Mr. Nixon's resignation, and says Mr. Wydler has constantly supported "the wrong side."

"I've been an honorable Congressman," Mr. Wydler said. "I keep myself out of trouble down here. I voted as a moderate. I represent the voters in my district. I try to get more jobs, more construction for Long Island."

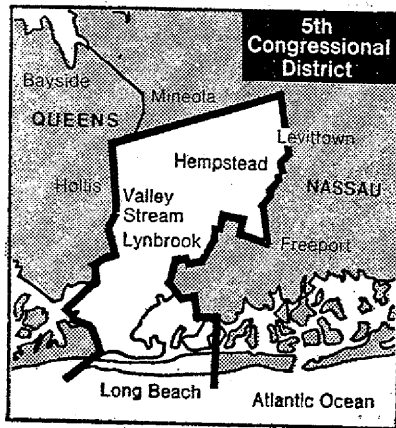
"I never see [Mr. Lowenstein] doing anything in the community. He's a wandering troubador."

This is a familiar charge against Mr. Lowenstein, who has run for Congress in Brooklyn and Nassau, but insists he has lived in the same house in Long Beach for the last 10 years, even while working in California in the last year.

"I'm the same person," Mr. Lowenstein has said, "but some of my views have changed. You can't stick to dogma. You have to face the issues. I sponsored day-care legislation when I was in Congress, but the way it has been administered has not worked."

But isn't Dr. van den Haag concerned

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that, if elected, Mr. Lowenstein might promote some ultraliberal legislation that would run counter to Dr. van den Haag's tenets?

"I trust Al," Dr. van den Haag said. "He will examine each problem. For example, we agree we need a certain amount of defense. But do we need this kind of bomber or that kind? I don't know. I would trust Al to find the answers."