

OBITUARIES

John Roche, 70, Dies; Was Presidential Adviser

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John Roche, 70, a former columnist and professor who also had served as a Capitol Hill staffer and presidential adviser, died May 6 at a hospital in Cambridge, Mass., after a stroke. He lived in Weston, Mass.

He had served as national chairman of the Americans For Democratic Action from 1962 to 1965. He had been an ADA founder.

Beginning in the early 1960s, Dr. Roche wrote speeches for Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and worked for Humphrey for a time after he became U.S. vice president in 1965. From 1966 to 1969, Dr. Roche was an adviser to President Lyndon B. Johnson.

After that, he wrote the syndicated column, "A World Edgewise," for 14 years. He also had been a contributor to TV Guide's "Newswatch" column. He had taught at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Mass., from 1973 until earlier this year.

Dr. Roche, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., served with the Army Air Forces during World War II. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Hofstra College, he received a master's degree and a doctorate in political science from Cornell University.

He had served on the faculties of

Haverford College from 1949 to 1956, and then of Brandeis University from 1956 to 1970. At Brandeis, where he helped establish the government department, he was dean of the arts and sciences faculty from 1958 to 1961.

Dr. Roche was an authority in the areas of political theory, constitutional law and early American history. He wrote such books as "The Quest for the Dream," "Courts and Rights," "Shadow and Substance" and "Sentenced to Life."

He had been a trustee of the Smithsonian Institution's Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. In the 1970s, he had served on the Presidential Commission on International Broadcasting and the U.S. Board for International Broadcasting.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Constance Ludwig Roche of Weston, a daughter, a brother and a granddaughter.