

# Ex-Rep. Lowenstein, Longtime Activist, Shot, Critically Hurt in His N.Y. Office

By Robert G. Kaiser  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former representative Allard K. Lowenstein, 50, a Ping Pong player to three generations of student activists and an organizer of the "Dump Johnson" movement in 1968, was shot and critically wounded in his New York law office yesterday by a man police identified as Dennis Sweeney, 37, a former Lowenstein protégé.

The chief of surgery at St. Claire's Hospital in Manhattan said last night that Lowenstein's left lung had been removed in emergency surgery, and that he had a "50-50 chance" of survival. Bullets also struck Lowenstein in the diaphragm and the heart, according to other reports.

Lowenstein was sitting in his office in Rockefeller Center when Sweeney

walked in and shook hands with him, according to a police officer quoted by the Associated Press.

A few moments later, a telephone installer working nearby heard "screams and then pops—three or four."

After the shooting the gunman walked out of Lowenstein's office, put his pistol on a secretary's desk, lit a cigarette and sat down to await police, according to witnesses quoted by the Associated Press.

"It was unbelievable," the telephone installer said. "He didn't even tremble. He could have been long gone. Everybody panicked after the shooting. People ran all over the place. Somebody took the gun with a handkerchief and put it away."

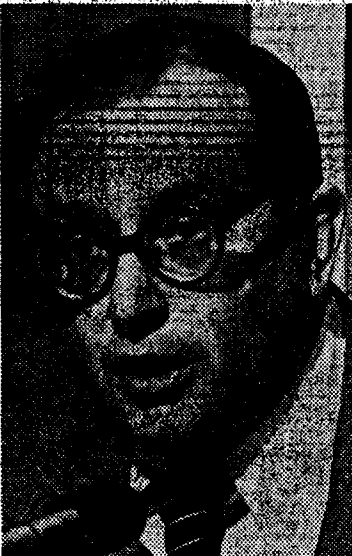
Bruce Payne, a professor at Duke

University and friend of both Lowenstein and Sweeney, said last night that Lowenstein expressed deep concern in December about Sweeney's mental condition.

Lowenstein said then that he had seen Sweeney recently in Philadelphia, and told "a very alarming story about Dennis being completely off his rocker." Payne said Sweeney told Lowenstein he was having all of his teeth removed because the Central Intelligence Agency had planted a transmitter in them, Payne recalled.

"I know you're after me," Sweeney told Lowenstein at that meeting, Payne recalled Lowenstein saying. Lowenstein has been an activists' activist for 30 years, from his student

See LOWENSTEIN, A6, Col. 1



**ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN**  
... organized "Dump Johnson" plan

A-6

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## Ex-Rep. Lowenstein

LOWENSTEIN, From A1

days at the University of North Carolina through this year's Kennedy campaign, in which he had been working hard. He served in the House for one term as a Democrat representing a Long Island district, but he was redistricted out of office. Several subsequent efforts to be reelected from other districts failed.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, one of Lowenstein's friends and political allies, broke away from his campaign schedule in Chicago last night and flew to New York to be near the former congressman. Kennedy was replaced at Chicago campaign events by his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver.

Kennedy was informed of the shooting only moments before he appeared at a news conference in Chicago to respond to President Carter's new anti-inflation measures. The subdued Mas-

sachusetts Democrat said he deplored "this senseless act of violence to a man who cares deeply for his fellow human beings."

As an undergraduate, as a law student at Yale, as an officer of the National Student Association, as a dean at Stanford and in a long political career, Lowenstein has long had a way of attracting loyal adherents from the ranks of college students. He is said to know thousands of people all over the country.

His greatest political triumph came in 1968, when the Dump Johnson movement he organized succeeded in pushing Lyndon B. Johnson from the White House. Lowenstein often failing to persuade Robert F. Kennedy and George McGovern to challenge Johnson in 1967, supported the candidacy of Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.), initially regarded as a hopeless long-shot.

# Shot in N. Y. Office

When McCarthy's surprisingly strong showing in the 1968 New Hampshire primary pushed Johnson out of the race, Lowenstein won his principal objective. Later he told a group of student followers, "We did it without a major name, money, or the mass media. We showed that the system is not so resistant to change, but that it is badly corroded."

Lowenstein's personal manner is gentle but intense. He evoked strong emotions in the people who knew him best, not always affectionate ones. Some of his closest and oldest friends from the University of North Carolina, for example, fell out with him years ago. Others remain fiercely loyal.

He is an avid wrestler, and even more avid eater of chocolate. He has been known to go into a restaurant for breakfast and order nothing but a chocolate milkshake.

Lowenstein's friends have often said that he never found a role for himself in the world, but some felt he could never have settled in just one. He seemed to think for some years that Congress was his natural calling, but the voters in several congres-

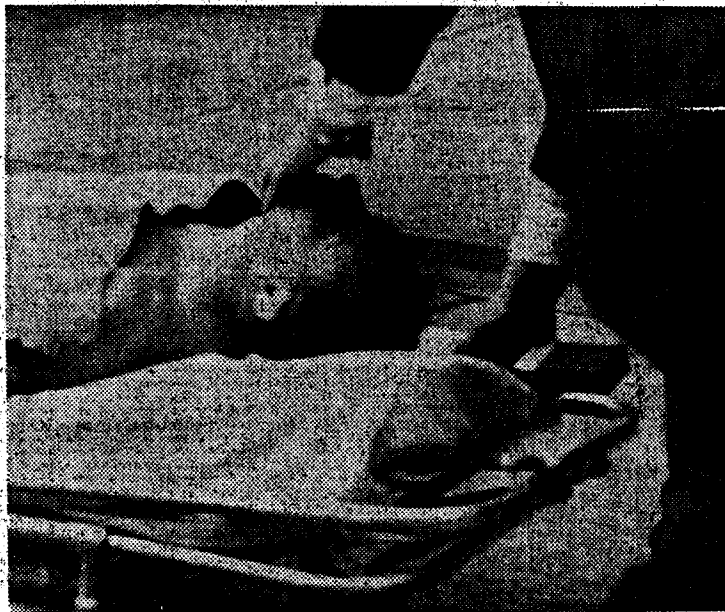
sional districts in New York disagreed.

In the early 1970s, Lowenstein served as national chairman of Americans for Democratic Action. At various times he has been active in voter registration drives; he wrote a book about the plight of blacks in South-West Africa, now known as Namibia. His friend Eleanor Roosevelt wrote the book's introduction.

In 1968 Lowenstein married Jennifer Lyman, and they had three children, all named for Lowenstein heroes: Frank Graham (president of the University of North Carolina when he was there), Thomas Kennedy and Katherine Eleanor. The marriage ended in divorce several years ago.

According to Payne, Lowenstein had recruited Sweeney to go to Mississippi in the summer of 1964 to work with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) on the Mississippi "Freedom Summer." At the time Lowenstein was a dean at Stanford.

Payne described Sweeney as "a real casualty" of the civil rights movement, a man who was "broken up by the toughness of the struggle, the fail-



Associated Press

Lowenstein is rushed to a hospital yesterday after shooting in his law office.

ure of SNCC to succeed, the schism between blacks and whites." Payne and others who were in Mississippi that summer recalled that Sweeney was handsome, articulate, well-liked

and a very effective civil rights worker.

Staff writers T. R. Reid, James L. Rowe Jr. and Edward Walsh contributed to this report.