

Lowenstein Asks Inquiry Into Political 'Accidents'

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By STEVEN V. ROBERTS JUL 16 1973

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LOS ANGELES, July 15 — Former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein, who ranked high on the White House list of top-priority "enemies," has called for an investigation into a long list of puzzling incidents that have plagued his political and personal life in recent years.

More importantly, he said in an interview, there should be a deeper examination of a wide range of events, from elections to assassinations, that may not have happened in the way that is now generally accepted.

There is a risk of fostering a feeling of "hysteria" that attributes everything to dark and unknown forces, Mr. Lowenstein warned. But there is a greater risk of "sinning by silence" in the face of the revelations surrounding Watergate and the "White House horror stories," he said.

'Misuse of Power'

"It now behooves people to study what it all added up to, the way events were shaped by the misuse of power," the New York Democrat asserted. "By not resenting the abuse of power for political purposes you become complaint with an atmosphere in which democracy cannot flourish."

Mr. Lowenstein was elected to Congress from the Fifth District on Long Island in 1968, the year he organized the "Dump Johnson" movement. He was defeated for re-election in 1970 by Representative Norman F. Lent after new district lines were drawn in what some regarded as gerrymandering.

In 1971 he promoted a nationwide campaign to register young voters for the Presidential election, and last year he failed to unseat Representative John J. Rooney in the 14th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

Cites Events

Mr. Lowenstein spoke to a reporter while he was here in California to deliver a series of speeches. He conceded that he could not prove that any of the mysterious incidents in his own life had been caused by the White House, which placed him seventh on an "enemies" list marked for "action." But he said the following events merited further investigation:

¶His income tax returns were audited in 1969 and 1970, even though he deliberately "under-claimed" the deductions he was entitled to. He was cleared for the first year, but the 1970 audit is continuing.

¶During the registration campaign, files in Pittsburgh and Texas disappeared; rally sites were canceled at the last minute, and the local authorities demanded huge "peace bonds" and in one case threatened youths with arrest if they attended the rally.

¶The mother of one of Mr. Lowenstein's chief aides, an employe of the Federal Government, was "called by the White House" and told not to allow her daughter to participate in the registration campaign.

¶During the 1972 campaign against Representative Rooney, one union was threatened with an income tax audit if it supported Mr. Lowenstein, he said, and another was warned that it risked an adverse ruling by the Pay Board.

At the time, Mr. Lowenstein said, he thought these incidents were probably "accidents." He was also worried about not "feeding the atmosphere of paranoid" that he said flourished among left-wing radicals. But that caution, he now believes, "played into the hands" of the Administration.

Despite frequent testimony at the Watergate hearings that the White House was deeply concerned about radical demonstrators, the "enemies" list revealed the Administration's true feelings, Mr. Lowenstein declared.

'The Real Threat'

That list did not include such radicals as Rennie Davis and Abbie Hoffman, he pointed out, but concentrated on such political figures as Arnold Picker, the chief fund-raiser for Senator Edmund S. Muskie, and Alexander Barkan, the director of political action for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

"The Administration acted as if the real threat was from the radical fringe for their own political purposes," Mr. Lowen-



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Allard K. Lowenstein

stein said. "But they knew the real threat was from the people on their list, the people who represented the majority sentiment in the country."

The Administration used provocateurs to encourage violence, Mr. Lowenstein charged, so that the only alternative to Mr. Nixon would appear to be "the wild demonstrators, the kids going crazy."

Partly as a result of these "tricks and sabotage," he added, the political climate became polarized and moderate liberals became "squeezed" in the middle between the radicals and the Nixon Administration.