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Stephen J. Wexler

Funeral services were held this week for Stephen J. Wexler, 40, who was killed Saturday in Annapolis, Maryland, in a motorcycle accident. Mr. Wexler, who was chief legal counsel to Senator Claiborne Pell's subcommittee on education, influenced every piece of education legislation passed by Congress since 1969.

He was married to the former Elizabeth Maiden, and had a 10-month-old son, Adam. A native of Providence, Mr. Wexler received his bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island, graduated from Georgetown University Law School and served in the Army from 1958 to 1960. He was a lawyer for labor groups in Washington and maintained a private law practice until 1966, when he became an associate general counsel for the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. He was named chief counsel for the subcommittee on education when Senator Pell became chairman of that subcommittee in 1969.

WEXLER, STEPHEN J.

On learning of Mr. Wexler's death, Senator Pell said, "In his seven years as counsel to the subcommittee on education, his contribution to legislation enacted in those years was immense. Every action to the subcommittee bore his stamp." "His loss will be felt not only by me and by other members of the Senate, but by all persons who care about education."

Besides his wife and son, Mr. Wexler is survived by his mother, Mrs. Anne (Dubinsky) Wexler of Providence, and a sister, Mrs. Arnold Fellman of Cranston.

Funeral services were held Tuesday from the Sugarman Memorial Chapel in Providence, with burial in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Providence Journal, Monday
September 29, 1975

OBITUARY

Pell education aide dies in cycle crash

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Stephen J. Wexler, 40, who as chief legal counsel to Sen. Claiborne Pell's subcommittee on education influenced every piece of education legislation passed by Congress since 1969, was killed here Saturday in a motorcycle accident.

Annapolis police said Mr. Wexler's motorcycle was struck by one of two cars that were drag racing at about 70-miles-an-hour. The drivers of both cars, men in their 30s, have been charged with drunken driving. A charge of motor vehicle manslaughter has been brought against one of them and a similar charge is pending against the other.

Mr. Wexler was married and had a 10-month-old son. A native of Providence, Mr. Wexler received his bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1956. He was graduated from Georgetown University Law School in Washington in 1962 and served in the Army from 1958 until 1960.

Mr. Wexler was a lawyer for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes in Washington in 1963 and 1964. He maintained a private law practice from 1964 until 1966 and was a consultant for the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Wexler also directed the re-electon campaign of David J. MacDonald for the presidency of the United Steel Workers of America.

In 1966, Mr. Wexler became an associate general counsel for the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and advised Pell's subcommittees on railroad retirement and arts and humanities.

When Pell was made chairman of the subcommittee on education in 1969, the senator made Mr. Wexler the subcommittee's chief counsel.

The subcommittee handled all education legislation that came into the Senate.

As the subcommittee's chief lawyer Wexler played a central role in the consideration of two major elementary education bills, once in 1971 and then again in 1974, and also the Higher Education Act of 1972, which is still considered the most important education legislation ever passed by Congress.

Mr. Wexler's job often brought him in contact with Rhode Island school superintendents and education commissioners for consultation ranging from preparation of grant applications to securing impact aid.

A spokesman for Pell's office said that whenever a Rhode Island school department turned to the senator's office with a problem, the office turned to Mr. Wexler.

Pell said, "I am deeply grieved at the death of Steve Wexler, not only because he was a valued legislative aide and advisor on whom I relied very much, but also because he was a very close friend whom I admired and cherished.

"In his seven years as counsel to the subcommittee on education, his contribution to legislation enacted in those years was immense. Every action of the subcommittee bore his stamp.

"He was intensely devoted to improving the quality of education at all levels across our nation and to insuring that quality education was available to all citizens.

"His loss will be felt not only by me and by other members of the Senate, but by all persons who care about education."

Besides his wife the former Elizabeth Maiden, and son, Adam, Mr. Wexler is survived by his mother, Mrs. Anne (Dubinsky) Wexler of Providence and a sister, Mrs. Arnold Fellman of Cranston.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

WEXLER
Stephen

WEXLER, STEPHEN J.