

<sup>Post Feb 74</sup>  
"Chappaquiddick—Five Years After" is the theme of leading articles in the August issues of McCall's and the Ladies' Home Journal. As a result of "an exhaustive new study of the original investigation and recent interviews with many of the participants," McCall's editor Vivian Cadden says Sen. Edward Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopechne "were on their way to the beach and many persons close to Kennedy no longer even try to deny it. . . Whether or not he seeks the presidency in 1976, a public and a press that have always doubted the 'wrong turn' story would welcome his candor if even at this late date he affirms that, yes, it *was* after midnight and he and Mary Jo were headed for the beach; that their going there was entirely innocent, but that the *appearance* of immorality was so inevitable that . . . he despaired of answering that question straightforwardly at the time with any chance of being believed."

In the Journal Barbara Howar says "Ted Kennedy, upon reflection, seems to me to be the Marilyn Monroe of American politics. Few care what he may feel or need; what ultimately happens to him as a human being appears

trivial compared to his intense potential as a money-making box-office draw for his party; he is the sex symbol of our political system. There is little compassion for what must be on his mind incessantly: his fear that he, more than any other contemporary political figure, is caught in the awesome web of ambition and obligation. As the last of the four brothers, Ted Kennedy belongs to the nation—not because he has really asked for or deserved his position, but because it has fallen to him by simple default . . . After Teddy Kennedy went on TV to explain Mary Jo Kopechne's death, he became a public ward, a parolee whose life was not only a national curiosity but a public responsibility; he became answerable to us all."