

29 June 1964

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NIGHT LEAD KENNEDY

(210)

NORTHAMPTON, MASS., JUNE 29 (AP)-THE PLANE WHICH CRASHED WHILE CARRYING SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY MAY HAVE BEEN FLYING "AT ALTITUDES LOWER THAN THOSE REQUIRED FOR SAFE CLEARANCE OF HIGH TERRAIN IN THE VICINITY," MASSACHUSETTS DIRECTOR OF AERONAUTICS CROCKER SNOW SAID TODAY.

DOCTORS REPORTED TODAY KENNEDY, RECUPERATING IN COOLEY DICKINSON HOSPITAL FROM A BROKEN BACK AND OTHER INJURIES, IS IN VERY SATISFACTORY CONDITION.

THEY ALSO SAID SEN. BIRCH BAYH, D-IND., AND HIS WIFE, MARVELLA, ARE SCHEDULED FOR DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL WEDNESDAY AND PROBABLY WILL GO TO WASHINGTON. BOTH WERE PASSENGERS IN THE PLANE.

~~CROCKER~~ ^{SNOW} SAID HIS PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE JUNE 19 CRASH INDICATES THAT THE PLANE MAY HAVE BEEN FLYING TOO LOW.

IN THE REPORT SENT TO ALAN S. BOYD, CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD, SNOW SAID:

THERE IS EVIDENCE FROM THE PASSENGERS WHO SURVIVED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NOTICEABLY WRONG UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE AIRPLANE HIT."

SNOW RECOMMENDED THAT PILOTS ON AN INSTRUMENT APPROACH BE "REQUIRED NOT ONLY TO REPORT PASSING OVER THE FINAL RADIO FIX, BUT ALSO THEIR INDICATED ALTITUDE AT THE TIME."

HE SAID THIS COULD PREVENT SIMILAR ACCIDENTS: "ANY UNSAFE DEVIATION COULD THEN IMMEDIATELY BE CALLED TO THE PILOT'S ATTENTION."

THE STATE AERONAUTICS DIRECTOR MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY RAISED BY CAB INVESTIGATORS THAT FAULTY INSTRUMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CRASH.

THE PILOT AND AN AIDE TO KENNEDY WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH JUNE 19 IN FOGGY WEATHER.

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