

Miss Kopechne's Body Flown To Pennsylvania for Funeral

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SCRANTON, Pa., July 20 — The body of Mary Jo Kopechne, who drowned early yesterday when a car driven by Senator Edward M. Kennedy plunged into a pond near Martha's Vineyard, was flown here in a chartered plane today as aides to the Massachusetts Senator completed arrangements for her funeral and burial.

The body was taken to the Kielty Funeral Home in Plymouth, a small town just outside Wilkes-Barre, where the 28-year-old political campaign worker was born.

A requiem mass will be sung at 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday at St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Church in Plymouth by Msgr. William E. Burchill. Burial will follow in the parish cemetery.

It was uncertain today whether Senator Kennedy would attend the funeral. His doctor said he had suffered a slight concussion in the accident in Chappaquiddick Island near Edgartown, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard, and he was reported resting today at his summer home in Hyannis Port, Mass.

The dead woman's parents,

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopechne, of Berkeley Heights, N. J., arrived last night for the funeral. They are staying in Forty Fort, Pa., near Wilkes-Barre, at the home of Francis Kopen, who is a brother of Mr. Kopechne. Mrs. Kopechne was reported resting under sedation.

Miss Kopechne, a former campaign worker for the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, had been active in politics since 1963. For the last year, she had been employed with Matt Reese & Associates, a Washington-based political consultant.

Mrs. Kopechne said that her blond, 5 foot 4 inch daughter—her only child—was one of several members of Robert Kennedy's staff who had become occasional guests of Senator Edward Kennedy on Cape Cod during the last year.

Mrs. Kopechne said the family moved from Pennsylvania to New Jersey when her daughter was about a year old. In Orange, she attended Our Lady of the Valley High School and was graduated in 1962 from Caldwell College for Women in Caldwell, N. J.

Miss Kopechne was a B-plus student throughout school, her mother, who is 51, said in an interview. At college, she majored in business administration, and for a year after her graduation she taught that subject on a volunteer basis at the Mission of St. Jude in Montgomery, Ala.

Late in 1963, she left for Washington, where she took a job as an aide to Senator George Smathers of Florida.

"We don't know how Mary Jo landed her jobs," Mrs. Kopechne said. "I guess it was just her personality. She was a very pleasing girl."

When Robert F. Kennedy was elected to the Senate from New York in 1964, Miss Kopechne took a job in his Washington office. She worked in Delaware, Kentucky and Pennsylvania during Robert Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination last year.

"She stayed on Robert Kennedy's staff until the day they closed down the doors, following his assassination," Mrs. Kopechne said.

Then, Miss Kopechne went to work for Matt Reese & Associates. During her six years in Washington, she and three other women shared a home in the Georgetown section.

One of her roommates, Nancy Lyons, a member of Senator Edward Kennedy's staff, was one of five women who had been invited to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard for the weekend, Mrs. Kopechne said.

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