



AP Firephoto

KENNEDY AFTER FUNERAL  
For details, see Page 8

# A Closer Look At Kennedy Case

Times-Post Service

Edgartown, Mass.

Edgartown prosecutor Walter Steele announced yesterday that police are investigating the possibility of "heavy drinking" at the party that preceded Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Friday night accident in which a woman passenger was killed.

Steele also said that "certain inquiries are being made and have been made concerning the conducts of Mr. Kennedy on Friday and Saturday" as well as "all aspects of his operation of the motor vehicle."

This apparent widening of the scope of the investigation was disclosed by the prosecutor at a confused, contradictory and, at times,

See Back Page

### From Page 1

angry news conference in the Edgartown Federated Church (Baptist and Congregational).

Appearing with Steele at the press conference was Edgartown Police Chief Dominick J. Arena, who had previously taken the position that his investigation was "closed." He indicated yesterday that it is still "continuing."

Notwithstanding Steele's announcement of the inquiry into drinking, Arena told the news conference there is "not a single iota of negligence in the accident." The chief said the only charge his investigation supports is the misdemeanor complaint—that Senator Kennedy left the scene of an accident without making himself known.

### HEARING

The complaint will be the subject of a private hearing before Dukes County Clerk Thomas Teller on Monday. The fame of the defendant

and the growing journalistic contingent is visibly straining the temper of the tiny law enforcement establishment of this resort community. During the news conference, a radio reporter made a derisive comment and Arena exploded:

"Now look, I've been more than cooperative. I've been so cooperative that they're going to put me on the stand and make a jackass out of me."

### DISCLOSURE

At another point, prosecutor Steele described as "unfortunate" the police chief's disclosure to newsmen earlier of testimony by Edgartown oil dealer and part-time deputy sheriff Christopher S. (Huck) Look Jr.

According to Arena, Look said he saw a car resembling Kennedy's drive aimlessly at 12:40 a.m., Saturday, near the scene of the accident in which 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopchne was drowned. Later, Saturday morning, Kennedy told the police his car

plunged into the pond at 11:15 p.m. the night before.

Look told authorities he saw a man and two women in the car, which drove off as soon as he shouted an offer of help.

### PARTY

Several minutes after the first accident, Look related that he saw a man and two women walk along the road leading to the vacation cottage where Kennedy and his friends had gathered for a party on Friday night.

There was no positive identification of the car's occupants or the pedestrians, Arena said.

Another striking contradiction exists in the statements of public officials on the case: Arena and Steele have said the job of interviewing participants in the Friday night party has been assigned to State Police Lieutenant George Killen; but Killen, reached by phone in Barnstable on Cape Cod, emphatically denied that he has been assigned to the Ken-

dy case.

"It is not true that I have been assigned to this case, I have no intention of interviewing any witnesses. This investigation is being conducted by Chief Arena," Killen said.

"All I know is that, for all intents and purposes, the investigation is over," he added.

Steele's comment about an investigation of "heavy drinking" came in response to questions by reporters. At times his explanation of the basis for this inquiry became heavily fogged in legal semantics.

### POSSIBILITIES

The gist of his remarks, however, was that authorities are considering the possibility of three violations in the aftermath of the accident.

One is leaving the scene of an accident, the misdemeanor with which Kennedy has been charged by Arena. A second possible violation might be driving under the

influence of alcohol—a complaint that Arena says he has no evidence to support. A third charge might be "wanton and reckless" negligence—an accusation that Steele said has been ruled out "for all practical purposes on the basis of existing evidence."

Arena and Steele acknowledged that they have obtained a court order for a record of telephone calls made from the vacation cottage in which the party took place. At a press conference on Monday authorities expressed uncertainty over whether there was a telephone a the cottage. The owner of the cottage, Sidney K. Lawrence of Scarsdale, N. Y., claims there is no phone in the cottage.

Steele denied reports that the FBI had entered or expressed an interest in the case. He said, however, without elaborating that there are "officers in this case who are not members of the Edgartown police force."

STATE POLICE?  
SEE PAGE 24 JUL

X INCIDENTS?