

Outpouring of Support Moves Sen. Kennedy

HYANNIS PORT (Mass.)—(AP)—Sen. Edward Kennedy was reported getting wide public support yesterday after his explanation of an automobile accident in which a young woman died.

But there was no indication when Kennedy would decide whether he would remain in the Senate.

Thousands of telegrams and hundreds of telephone calls poured into the senator's summer home and into his offices in response to his nationally televised appeal Friday night to the people of Massachusetts to help him decide whether to remain in office.

Richard Drayne, his press secretary, visited Kennedy on Squaw Island and said later the Senator was finding most of the messages favorable.

"He was obviously moved by them," Drayne said.

All response was not favorable, however, and some persons expressed doubts that the first surge of calls and telegrams came from a cross-section of the public.

"The people who do this are probably real die-hard Kennedy backers who want to show their support," said one Boston editor.

Republican leaders in the state, some of whom a short while ago regarded Kennedy as nearly invincible in next year's election, thought the Kennedy star may have dimmed, at least on a national level.

Kennedy's television appearance Friday night followed by a few hours his plea of guilty to a charge of leaving the scene of an accident in which a woman drowned.

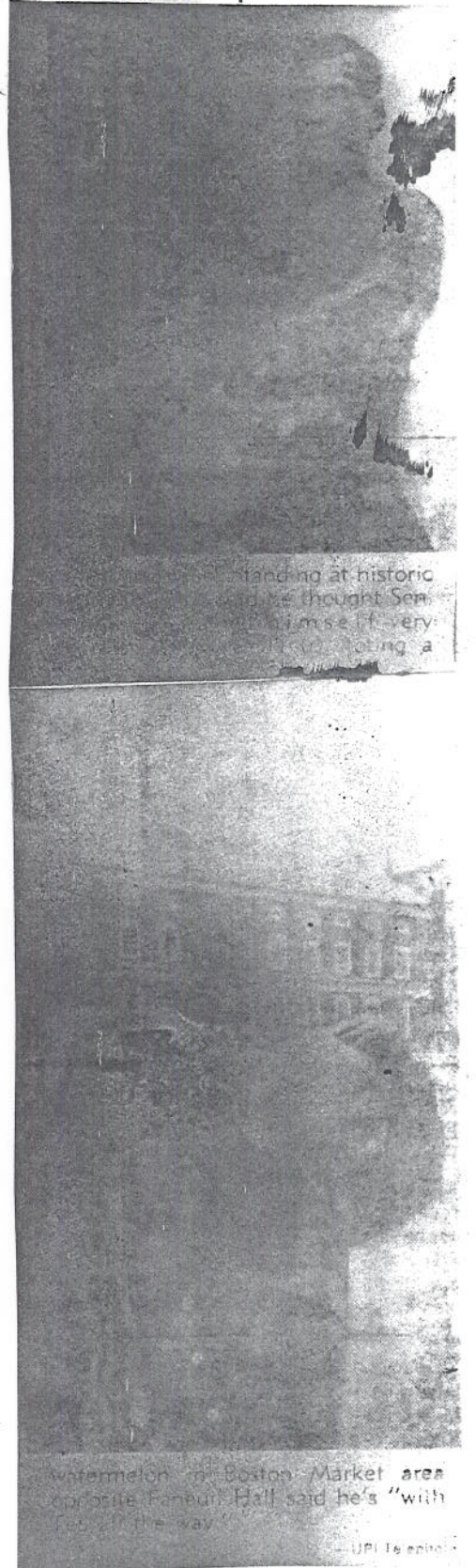
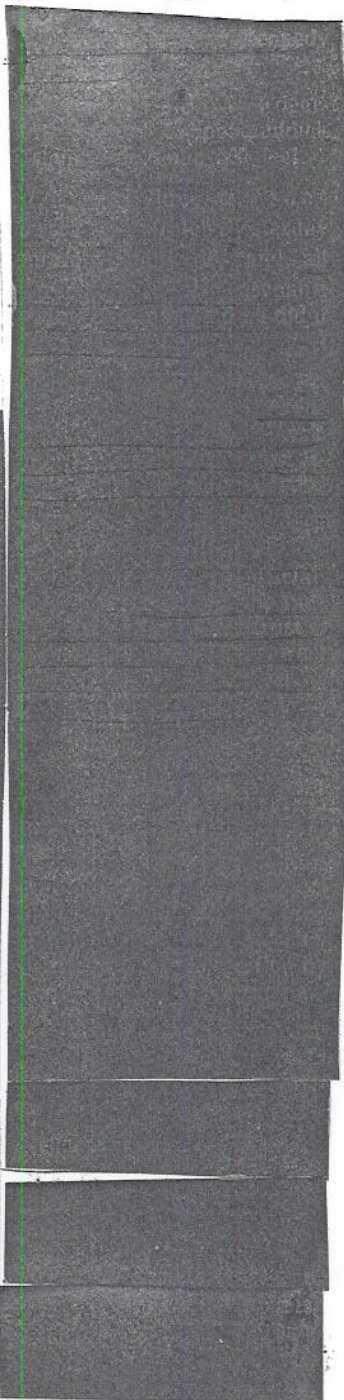
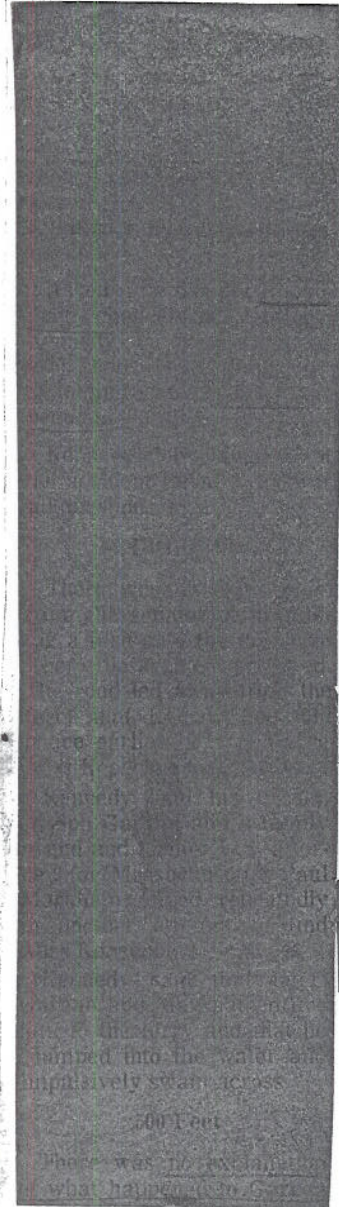
He was given a suspended two-month jail sentence and placed on probation.

Mary Jo Kopechne, 28, a former secretary and campaign worker for Sen. Kennedy's late brother, Sen. Robert Kennedy, drowned after the car driven by the Massachusetts senator plunged into a

tidal pool from a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island.

"I would not want to beat him on this basis," said Republican State Committee

-Turn to Page 12, Col. 4



standing at historic site thought Sen. Kennedy himself very hard hitting a

watermelon in Boston Market area opposite Fenwick Hall said he's "with Kennedy the way

—UPI Teletype