

Crowd at Church

Applause Greet Kennedy

United Press

Hyannis Port, Mass.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his family went to Mass yesterday to worship among the constituents he has asked to help him decide whether to resign. The crowd outside the church applauded him and telegrams of support continued to pour in.

It was the first trip to Mass for the senator since last weekend's car accident in which a pretty young secretary drowned.

On Friday, Kennedy pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and asked the voters of Massachusetts in an

Other Kennedy News
On Page 16

address telecast nationwide to help him decide what to do about staying in the Senate. An aide said yesterday afternoon the status of a decision on resigning was "very fluid."

Meanwhile, neither Kennedy nor anyone else involved revealed any details about the senator's actions the night of the accident, beyond those Kennedy gave in his television talk Friday.

Said lawyer Paul Markham, one of two friends who Kennedy said returned with him to the scene of the acci-

dent and tried unsuccessfully to recover the victim's body:

"I see no prospect of talking about it—not today, not tomorrow and not the next day. I see no necessity of talking about it—ever.

Yesterday morning, more than 200 tourists and parishioners, many with cameras, lined the sidewalk in front of the white-clapboard St. Francis Xavier Church in Hyannis, three miles from the Kennedy family compound here, when the Kennedys arrived. The senator's pregnant wife, Joan, was driving, and a friend and two of the

See Back Page

From Page 1

couple's three children were with them.

"There he is," someone shouted, and the crowd quickly surrounded the small white convertible.

Kennedy, wearing a blue suit, white shirt and dark tie, emerged stiffly — he still wears a brace from a back injury suffered in a plane crash five years ago—to applause.

Mrs. Kennedy, in a yellow dress with a wide-brimmed hat over her flowing blonde hair, shepherded her daughter, Kara, 9, and son, Edward Jr., 7, through a side door to a pew.

Ethel Kennedy, widow of Senator Robert F. Kennedy (Dem-N.Y.), sat several rows behind her brother-in-law with most of her 11 children.

The Kennedys left after the customary closing hymn, "America the Beautiful," and plunged into a mob of well-wishers. The senator appeared concerned about his wife and children and did not shake the offered hands of well-wishers. But as they drove off, he nodded several times to thank those who, reaching for his shoulder through the open windows, called "Good luck."

Last Sunday, the Kennedys heard Mass at home. The senator's only other public appearances last week were at the funeral on Tuesday of Mary Jo Kopechne, 28, who was killed when his car plunged into a salt-water pond on Chappaquiddick Island adjacent to Martha's Vineyard, and in court in Edgartown on Friday.

TELEGRAMS

Rene Page of Marshfield, a regional supervisor of the Western Union Telegraph Company office in Hyannis, said yesterday between 25,000 and 30,000 telegrams had been delivered to the Kennedy compound since Saturday morning. He said this was about the same number sent last summer urging Kennedy to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

In Boston yesterday, Western Union assistant operations manager John Annand said telegrams were "still coming in pretty heavy, but nothin' glike Friday night."

He estimated the number of wires addressed to Kennedy at either Hyannis Port or Boston — all being channeled through Hyannis — at "very roughly, 35,000 to 45,000," well below Saturday's early estimate of 100,000, and said extra help still was on duty tryin' gto clear up a large

backlog.

100-TO-1

A Kennedy aide said on Saturday the messages were running 100-1 in Kennedy's favor and the senator "obviously was moved" by the "overwhelming" favorable response to his televised plea for advice.

But yesterday, remarking that the status of a decision on resigning was "very fluid," the aide said Kennedy had "no plans for the immediate future" and there was no timetable for making up his mind.

It was not known when Kennedy would return to the senate, which this week votes on whether to deploy an anti-ballistic missile system, a project Kennedy, the majority whip, strongly opposes.

For the second straight day yesterday, Kennedy cruised on Nantucket Sound in his father's power yacht, the Marlin.

During the cruise, the boat was beached in a cove near the harbor and Kennedy's wife, several children and Ethel Kennedy went ashore for a picnic. The senator stayed on board.

Doubts About the Kennedy Swim

Edgartown, Mass.

Residents of this Martha's Vineyard town disagree on whether Senator Edward M. Kennedy could have swum the 150-yard channel separating Martha's Vineyard from Chappaquiddick Island.

Kennedy said in his televised speech Friday night that after unsuccessful attempts with two friends to rescue Mary Jo Kopechne last weekend he impulsively swam across the channel to Edgartown, nearly drowning in the process.

Richard Hewitt, skipper of the barge-ferry which makes the trip in three minutes, said, "I'm not saying it was impossible to make the swim, but I don't believe it."

Police Chief Dominick J. Arena, who requested the complaint on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident to which Kennedy pleaded guilty, did not doubt that Kennedy could have made the swim.

"The Senator, despite his bad back, looks healthy to me, and I think he could do it. I believe his story," Arena said. He added that last summer an Irish setter made the swim regularly.

John N. Farrar, the fire

department skin diver who recovered Miss Kopechne's body, made the swim Saturday, taking about five or six minutes.

Farrar said Kennedy would have to be "a reasonable strong swimmer" and "in reasonably good shape.

He said Kennedy would have had to contend with a tidal current of two to three knots and would have been "in great danger" from motorboats in the darkness.

United Press