

Ted's Future

The Senate Not The Presidency

HYANNIS PORT (Mass.) — (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy is confining his political ambitions to the U.S. Senate — not the presidency — as he awaits what is shaping up as a vote of confidence by the people of Massachusetts, sources

close to him say.

For the moment, these sources say, Kennedy has put out of his mind any ambitions he might have harbored for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination.

As he remains in seclusion here, inundated by thousands of telegrams in response to Friday night's dramatic radio-TV appeal, Kennedy is described by those who have seen him as irritated over press speculation about what the death of Mary Joe Kopechne and his actions following it mean to his presidential prospects.

May Interview

These reports of Kennedy's mood are lent credibility by an interview last May in which he expressed serious doubts about whether to seek the presidency in 1972 or ever.

The senator pleaded guilty last Friday to a charge of leaving the scene of a fatal accident and received a suspended two-month sentence.

He did not report the accident until more than nine hours after his car plunged off a bridge and Miss Kopechne drowned.

On Friday evening, in an address to the people of Massachusetts, Sen. Kennedy asked his constituents to express their opinions, saying he would consider resigning from the Senate unless they convinced him he should stay in office.

Overwhelming

So far the response of Massachusetts residents is reported to be overwhelmingly in favor of his continuing as senator.

About 15 or 20 demonstrators carrying signs saying, "Can you buy justice?" and "Tell the truth Ted" staged a parade near his home yesterday and were pelted with eggs and firecrackers by a group of youngsters.

Police said the group sympathetic to Kennedy shouted obscenities at the demonstrators and yelled, "Go back where you came from" and "Get out of here, you bums."

Magic

Officers said the incident occurred after the demonstrators, some from out of state, completed a protest march about three blocks from the Kennedy residential compound. Some held up signs saying, "Youth for truth, demand resignation"

and "Go swim, don't run in '72."

In a state where the Kennedy name is political magic, which re-elected him by a margin of 1.2 million votes in 1964, and in which no Republican opponent has yet surfaced for 1970, the telegrams stacked in the living room of his Squaw Island summer home have encouraged him.

But there was no word yet on when and how he would announce his decision — or even whether he would announce it at all.

It was considered possible that simply by returning to Washington and casting a Senate vote on a key issue — such as the controversial Safeguard antimissile deployment — he would signal his intent to stay on.

Kennedy made his first public appearance yesterday since the nationwide broadcast. With his wife Joan and a friend he attended Mass in Hyannis.