

# Humphrey Asks Kennedy Not to Step Down

## Statement Asserts He Has 'Served So Ably' in Senate

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 28—Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey issued a statement today in which he urged Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts not to resign from the Senate, "where he has served so ably."

The former Vice President, for 16 years a Senator and 11 the Democratic leader, said of Mr. Kennedy: "His self-judgment on his actions after the tragedy speaks for itself."

Senator Kennedy, in a television appearance last Friday, said that his tardiness in reporting the accident in which Mary Jo Kopechne had drowned on Chappaquiddick Island in a car he had driven off a bridge was "indefensible." He has been a Senator for seven years.

Mr. Humphrey said Mr. Kennedy's "great potential for public service to his state and nation remains."

"I know this personal tragedy has caused Senator Kennedy and his family as well as the Kopechne family great pain and sorrow," Mr. Humphrey's statement said. "My heart goes out to them."

In another development today involving Senator Kennedy, Speaker of the House John W. McCormack joined with the six other Democratic members of Massachusetts' delegation to the House to urge him to remain in the Senate.

### Send Telegram

The Speaker had not commented publicly before on the Kennedy case.

The seven Massachusetts Representatives sent Mr. Kennedy a telegram pledging "continued friendship, support and cooperation" and saying, "You have exercised your role of leadership in the Senate with genuine brilliance and dedication."

Mr. Kennedy was elected Senate Democratic whip, the No. 2 leadership position in that body, last January. In 1962 he wrested the Democratic senatorial nomination from Edward J. McCormack Jr. in his first bid for public office. Mr. McCormack is the Speaker's favorite nephew.

## Gargan Rented Auto

By JOSEPH LELYVELD

Special to The New York Times

EDGARTOWN, Mass., July 28—The only development today in the events involving Senator Kennedy's fatal automobile accident was the information that the Senator's cousin, Joseph F. Gargan, rented a 1969 white Valiant automobile on Friday, July 18.

The matter of the Kennedy cars has become an element in discussions of the case because of the report of a witness, Christopher Look Jr., a Dukes County deputy sheriff who is a summer resident of Chappaquiddick Island, where the accident occurred.

Mary Jo Kopechne, a Washington secretary, drowned when the Senator's 1967 black Oldsmobile drove off a bridge on the island.

Mr. Look told the police the morning after the accident that he was virtually certain he had seen the Senator's 1967 black Oldsmobile sedan at an intersection on Chappaquiddick Road about 12:45 A.M. Saturday, July 19.

It was on the basis of this statement, given before the authorities knew that the Oldsmobile was registered in Senator Kennedy's name, that the police had fixed the time of the accident at about 12:45 A.M.

In both his statement to the police and his televised accounting Friday night to the voters of Massachusetts, Senator Kennedy said that the accident occurred soon after 11 o'clock on the night of July 18 as he and Miss Kopechne were driving to catch the ferry from Chappaquiddick to Edgartown.

The ferry normally shuts down soon after midnight.

### Told of Return

In his televised talk, Mr. Kennedy said for the first time that he and two companions, Mr. Gargan and Paul Markham, a former United States Attorney for Massachusetts, had returned to the scene of the accident at what would have been roughly the time mentioned by Mr. Look, in a vain effort to rescue Miss Kopechne.

Mr. Look was unsure as to whether there had been two or three persons in the car he had seen.

Senator Kennedy's account of the return trip appeared at



The New York Times

Christopher Look Jr., who said he saw car more than an hour after Senator Kennedy gave for the accident.

the time of the telecast to raise the possibility that the witness had seen the Senator and his friends on their way to the scene rather than the car that went off the bridge as the authorities here had initially assumed.

The Valiant was rented by Mr. Gargan on Friday from the Hertz Rent-a-Car outlet here, the Old Colony Service Corporation on West Tisbury Road. It was returned to the parking lot there late Saturday night or early Sunday morning after the garage had closed.

Following Mr. Kennedy's televised statement, his office was asked to identify the second car. No reply was forthcoming.

## Great Potential for Public Service Is Said to Remain

It is not known whether a third car was available to Mr. Kennedy and his friends.

It is known, however, that Senator Kennedy made the trip from Hyannis aboard his yacht, the Victoria.

The weekend of the accident, James J. Sullivan of Boston, who rented a cottage across the road from the one on Chappaquiddick Island where the Senator and his friends had their cookout, said only that two cars were parked outside when he looked on the night of the accident.

Mr. Look originally told his story to the police Saturday morning at the scene of the accident. Last Monday Edgartown's police chief, Dominick J. Arena, questioned Mr. Look closely and discovered that the witness was unshakable in his belief that there had been an L in the license plate of the car he had seen.

The license plate of the Oldsmobile, which was registered in Mr. Kennedy's name, was L782207. The license plate of Mr. Gargan's rented car was Y98-476.

Mr. Look has refused to repeat to the press his version of what he saw, but it was reliably learned today that he had told the police he had seen the other car in his headlights and was certain it was black. He said that he was sure he had had his low beams on.

The other car, he was reported to have said, had stopped at the intersection without having begun either a left or right turn.

Mr. Look was driving from the ferry landing where his car had been parked all night while he worked at the Edgartown Yacht Club as a guard. He was in uniform.

He told the authorities, it was

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learned, that he pulled his car around the bend and over to the side of the road, then got out and started to walk back toward the black sedan. Previously it was understood that he had shouted an offer of help, but this apparently was not the case.

#### Saw License Plate

The other car, Mr. Look told the police, started to back up toward his and he assumed that its driver wanted to ask him for information. He said that he had seen the license plate in the car's backup lights, and that he believes its driver must have seen him and recognized his uniform as the lights glanced off the badge and whistle on his shirt.

Mr. Look, it was understood, was not persuaded by the Senator's accounting Friday night and still believes he saw Mr. Kennedy's car.

The car he saw turned down the dirt road to the bridge, heading the opposite direction from the ferry.

William L. Parker, one of the owners of the Shiretown Inn where Mr. Kennedy and his cousin were registered, said today that he remembered only Mr. Gargan's rented car. He said that he recalled it as being gray or light-colored but had no memory of the model.

It was also learned today that Senator Kennedy's party had five rooms at the Shiretown Inn on the night of July 18. Three of these appeared to

have been occupied by married couples who did not take part in the cookout on Chappaquiddick Island.

The hotel's records show that these rooms were registered in the names of John P. Driscoll, Ross Richards and Henry Carr.

Mr. Parker, one of the inn's managers, said all three were friends of Mr. Kennedy but could not otherwise identify them. He said that the reservations were made in early June.

Mr. Parker's partner, Russell E. Peachey, said recently that Senator Kennedy came down the private, outdoor staircase from Room 6 where he was staying at about 2:25 A.M. Following the accident to complain of noise next door and inquire about the time.

At the hotel next door, the Colonial Inn, employees acknowledged that a loud drinking party had been under way at that hour and that Mr. Peachey had phoned to say that a guest was complaining.

He didn't identify the guest as Senator Kennedy, the employees said.

Meantime, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., the historian and former aide to President Kennedy, denied a report in The New York Times on Sunday that he had flown to Hyannis Port last week to advise Senator Kennedy. Mr. Schlesinger said that he had not been there at all since the accident.