

Teddy's Course

SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY took his case to the proper court, we feel, when he solicited the views of the people of Massachusetts on his fitness to remain in office after the tragedy at Chappaquiddick Island.

The magic of the Kennedy name being what it is in the Bay state, it came as no surprise that the people overwhelmingly urged him to continue representing them in the U.S. Senate. Nor was it any surprise that he acceded to their wishes by announcing that he would keep his Senate seat and run for re-election next year.

In fact, we regard his decision as wise. While we have differed sharply with Ted Kennedy on many issues, including national preparedness and the conduct of the Vietnam war, we have never questioned his diligence and sincerity. Moreover, we agree that few members of the Senate work harder for their constituencies than this young man.

Taking his statements at face value, Kennedy is to be admired for promising to serve out a full six-year term in the Senate if re-elected in 1970 — thus ruling himself out as a 1972 presidential aspirant.

Being a senator requires certain abilities and attributes. Being a President of the United States requires quite a different set of assets, including super-human stability and coolness.

Ted Kennedy has publicly confessed that he failed lamentably to show these qualities in the aftermath of the Chappaquiddick Island tragedy.