



Will Nixon Be Fooled?

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Hanoi Sets Viet Nam Election Trap

By GEN. THOMAS A. LANE

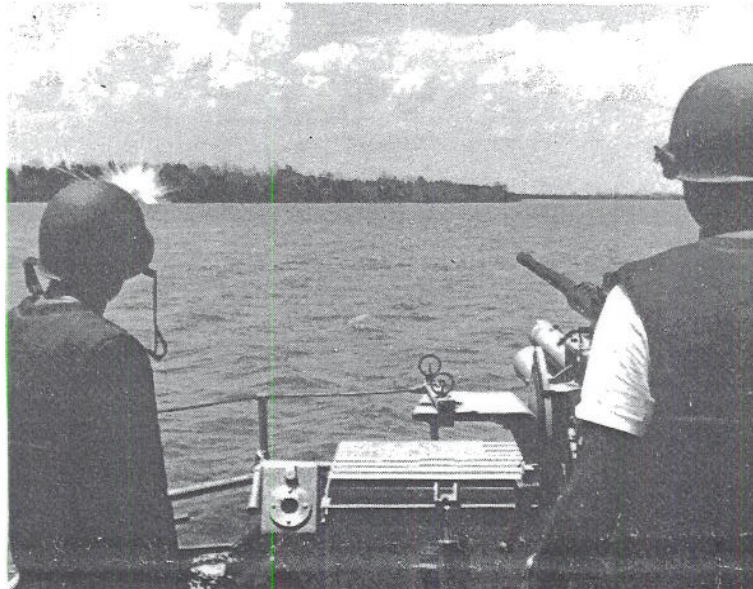
President Nixon is whistling in the dark. If he thinks that new elections in South Viet Nam with Viet Cong participation can persuade Ho Chi Minh to withdraw his forces and stop the war, he is grossly mistaken. Ho will take the elections as a demonstration of American inconstancy and a contribution to his conquest of the south.

In 1954 the French government divided Viet Nam, North and South. It ceded the north to Ho Chi Minh and retained the south under the Emperor Bao Dai. The Geneva Treaty of 1954 provided for free movement so that Vietnamese who wanted to move north or south to live under the government of their choice would be free to do so. The treaty also provided that the people of Viet Nam, North and South, would have an opportunity in 1956 to vote whether to reunite the country or to make the division permanent.

In 1955 Ho Chi Minh cut off the exodus of people moving south to escape from his rule. He inaugurated the terror to liquidate all internal opposition to his regime. By 1956 only the foolish would talk about free elections in North Viet Nam. Communist regimes do not submit their tenure to the will of the people.

In the south, Premier Diem had unified the country. The people had voted to retire the Emperor and to establish a republic. They had elected a national assembly and had chosen Diem to be their president.

Because it was obviously impossible to conduct a free election in the north, President Diem announced that the election provision of the Geneva Treaty would be disregarded in the south. Some observers have charged him with barring the reunification of the country. The charge is absurd.



Despite the epochal events of the past week, the war in Viet Nam goes on as Ho Chi Minh continues to play the successful (for him) waiting game.

The treaty provision was pure eye-wash. French politicians used the election gimmick to obscure the fact that their cession of the north to communism was permanent. They knew there would never be an election in the north.

Now, election talk is rife again. The government of South Viet Nam, so recently elected by the people after a careful process of constitutional development, has been pressured to hold elections with Communist participation. The Nixon Administration considers such

an offer of free elections to be sound policy.

It was to be expected that the Kennedy liberals who tried to surrender South Viet Nam in 1963 would use every available means to replace the Thieu government with a coalition regime. But why is the Nixon Administration playing with such policy? Does it suppose that voting can change Ho's purpose to conquer South Viet Nam? Is it seeking to conciliate domestic opposition with a lengthy election ploy

which will give it more time for negotiations? The toll of casualties should bar such policy.

President Nixon should be clear about certain vital aspects of our Viet Nam policy. His avowed dedication to the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs must be unswervingly held. When he honors with any attention Communist attacks on the legitimacy of the government of South Viet Nam, he plays into the hands of Ho Chi Minh. This is the sign of American weakness and indecision which Hanoi requires to undermine the morale of the south.

A free election with enemy participation in time of war is an insanity. While the people of South Viet Nam are deeply opposed to Communist rule, why would we undermine their will to survive by exposing them to promises of peace and prosperity under such rule? Only the Communist candidates could offer them instant peace.

Any challenge to the Thieu government should be met with an offer to hold free, internationally supervised elections in both North and South Viet Nam as the Geneva Treaty provided. The proposal would get an instant rebuff from Hanoi. Ho Chi Minh does not allow any such international intrusion upon his domain.

The United States owes equal respect to the sovereignty and the dignity of South Viet Nam. That we are not giving it is a measure of our failure as an alliance partner. It is the cause of the war.

Teddy Kennedy:

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NEWSPAPER

• Teddy on the Ropes

Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Ed Aldrin and Mike Collins have rocketed home safely from the Sea of Tranquility while President Nixon has left for a crucial journey to Asia and Communist Rumania. Yet as momentous as these events were last week, wherever one turned in the Nation's Capital intense conversation revolved around only a single subject: the political fate of Teddy Kennedy.

Possessed of handsome, photogenic looks, a monetary fortune and a gilt-edged surname, Teddy had risen fast in the political world since his election to the U.S. Senate in 1962 to fill the unexpired term of then President John F. Kennedy. Re-elected in 1964, Teddy was content to stay mainly in the shadows of political leadership.

But with the assassination in 1968 of Bobby, his last surviving brother, Teddy quickly grasped the fallen Kennedy banner to become a rallying point for the majority of the Democratic party. Deposing Sen. Russell Long as assistant leader of the Senate Democrats in January, he began to dominate the direction of the party. Until last week it had been automatically assumed that he was a shoo-in for the Democratic nomination three years hence.

But then came the incredible incident on Chappaquiddick Island off Cape Cod. Today few political observers believe that Teddy can ever fully recover from the well-publicized fact that, for at least nine hours, he failed to inform police that he had driven his 1967 Oldsmobile sedan off a narrow, wooden bridge into an inlet, had miraculously escaped, but had failed to rescue his pretty, female companion who drowned struggling to extricate herself from the overturned vehicle.

The available evidence, in fact, suggests that Teddy, aside from his own statement that he dove repeatedly into the waters to retrieve Mary Jo Kopechne, did nothing else during this mysterious nine-hour interval to see that she received help.

While Kennedy has said he was "exhausted and in a state of shock" after the accident, local officials found that he was not too shocked or exhausted to immediately call for his lawyer, Paul Markham, when he returned to the party at the Chappaquiddick cottage after the accident. The receptionist at his motel in Edgartown has also claimed the senator appeared "natural" when he borrowed a dime from her to make a phone call two and a half hours before he reported the accident to police.

The senator's plea of guilty Friday to a charge of leaving the scene of an accident was also considered damaging to Kennedy. For by entering a guilty plea and receiving a two months' suspended sentence, Kennedy was able to avoid facing the show-cause hearing that he had originally demanded and which was scheduled for Monday. Kennedy desperately wanted to avoid the hearing, it was said, because he had learned that the prosecution had damaging testimony that would have forced a trial and shot full of holes his original statement about the accident.

A reliable source said the prosecution would have taken apart Kennedy's statement that he went to the police as soon as he "fully realized" what had happened. The source informed the New York Post that "We have good evidence of a number of calls made by the Kennedy group on both sides of the water during the crucial hours" after the accident. It was this evidence, it is believed, that Teddy wanted to prevent from coming out into the open; thus he pleaded guilty.

His subsequent demand for free TV network time to explain his case was considered a grandstand stunt by reporters, for whatever he says on TV will, of course, not be under oath.

Aside from all this, Kennedy's case for himself had been severely damaged as a result of an apparent effort by his friends to hush up what had actually transpired during and after the accident and by the

senator's own week-long refusal to go beyond the unsigned statement he made to police on July 19—a short, formal report, prepared with the aid of Markham, which raised far more questions than it answered.

Teddy, in fact, realized during the week how deleterious the whole episode could be to his reputation—and career. Carloads of his aides and others with vested interests in the Kennedy fortunes felt compelled to journey to the Hyannis Port compound in Massachusetts, where Teddy had been secluding himself, to help salvage their potential presidential candidate.

Among those huddling with the senator to help



him explain away his conduct were Richard Goodwin and Theodore Sorensen, former speech writers for JFK; former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara; Richard Drayne, Teddy's press secretary; Burke Marshall, former assistant U.S. attorney; David Burke, an administrative assistant; and other Teddy hacks, such as Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Frank Mankiewicz.

But whether they could recoup Teddy's once promising political future was doubtful. Newspapers and magazines across the country, left, right, Republican and Democratic, were generally severely critical of the Massachusetts senator. Even his friends were outraged at his conduct and his initial failure to give full explanation. Newsweek, responding like a girl betrayed by her fiance, lashed out: "... [W]hen the man in question is a U.S. senator, a Kennedy whose star is ascendant; when at least eight hours elapse between the tragedy and its reporting of it—and when the senator's closest associates are known to have been powerfully concerned over his indulgent drinking habits, his daredevil driving and his ever-ready eye for a pretty face, then the incident cries out for precisely the explanations, which, as Teddy went into seclusion across Nantucket Sound in the family home of Hyannis Port, were bafflingly obscure."

The Washington Post, the Capital's morning newspaper which has long championed the Kennedy cause, was milder but still stern. Repudiating suggestions by Teddy's friends that this was a "Kennedy tragedy," the Post remarked:

"But this is first of all the tragedy of a young woman who is dead because she was a passenger in a car driven off a bridge by Sen. Edward Kennedy under circumstances that are, to say the very least, highly questionable. Perhaps there are no clear answers, or none that the senator wants to give, in which case the public and the politicians will draw their own conclusions and they will not be kind, in large part because the brief statement the senator has made so far is not good enough. Worse, there are good reasons to doubt that it is even accurate. . . ."

"So the senator, if he says nothing, can expect not only honest doubts to remain, but also the bitter whispering campaign that has already begun; the talk will go on, amplified, about the initial timidity of the police and how the Kennedys managed that; about the drinking and the calls to lawyers

and the various, damaging versions of what happened that night. If that is the way he wants to leave it, that is, of course, his choice. . . ."

"... It is nearly certain, however, that saying nothing will do him grave damage politically, which is why he would be better advised to forget the politics of it and clear up the record of this tragic affair, not just for the sake of those who wish him well but because it is the right thing to do."

Reaction among politicians on Capitol Hill was even sharper. Most lawmakers refused to talk for the record, but off the record many were scathing.

Save for Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D.-Mont.), a gentle soul who had been grooming Teddy for bigger and better things, and Sen. Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.), one of Teddy's closest friends, the politicians were writing Kennedy off. Rep. Roman Pucinski (D.-Ill.) said the "damage [to Kennedy] is irrevocable" so far as his White House chances are concerned.

Another Democratic leader summed up Kennedy's future this way: "I don't think he can ever recover from the fact that he left that girl's body in the water for nine hours. That's too much." Besides complaining of the "heartlessness" it would require to leave a body in a car overnight at the bottom of an inlet, one influential Democrat said the indecision shown by, Teddy would appear to eliminate him from consideration as a serious candidate for President. "You'd be afraid to trust this man with the button," he related.

Columnists Evans and Novak reported that objective politicians feel the accident will gravely damage any presidential chances. "Moreover," the columnists noted, "the Harvard cheating incident, all but forgotten, has returned from the deep subconscious to activate political conversation. One Democratic congressman, considered pro-Kennedy, told us he thought of that long-ago Harvard affair when he read of the unexplained delay in reporting the accident and that he began to contemplate 'the ultimate nature of a guy's character.'"

Indeed, as politicians see it here, the congressman had put his finger on the key reason why the Democrats will probably not choose Teddy in 1972 or at any other time. For how, it is being asked, even with some very belated "full disclosure statement," and not under oath at that, could Teddy hope to lead the Democratic party and the public on a "moral crusade"—which is what he has tried to convince the public he wants to do—when his own personal character has been revealed to be so flawed?

• Teddy on the Road

The recent incident is not the first time that Sen. Kennedy's driving habits have got him into trouble. While attending the University of Virginia Law School, Charlottesville, Va., in the late '50s, Kennedy was a familiar figure to local police, as four times in the space of two years he was arrested convicted and fined for driving infractions:

In March 1957, Sen. Kennedy was arrested for speeding and fined \$15 by the Albemarle County (Charlottesville) court.

In June 1958, he was again picked up for speeding and again ordered to pay a \$15 levy.

Also in June 1958, the young Kennedy was arrested for "reckless driving—racing," according to county records, and was this time fined \$35, plus court costs.

Finally, in December 1959, Kennedy was arrested for failure to stop for a red light, convicted and fined \$10, plus court costs.

New York Post correspondent Warren Hoge wrote last week that Albemarle County Lt. T.M. Whitten recalls that he picked up Teddy for reckless driving some 11 years ago when he drove his Oldsmobile convertible through a red light near Charlottesville and then sped off through the streets at 90 miles per hour.

Whitten said he hadn't seen who the driver was when he chased the speeding convertible in March

route Kennedy maintains he took are skeptical of his story for other reasons as well. The road that leads to the Chappaquiddick ferry is hard-surfaced—in fact, the only paved road on the island—and is marked in advance with a directional warning arrow pointing to the left that shows up clearly at night. The narrow beach road that proved to be a disastrous detour for Sen. Kennedy runs off sharply to the right from the main road, its entrance almost hidden from public view. In reconstructing Kennedy's route, reporters found it necessary to slow down to at least 10 miles per hour to make the abrupt, 90-degree right turn—the turn Kennedy claims to have taken "by mistake." The dirt road, furthermore, is washboard rough and rattles any car passing over it.

• Kennedy says that he dove for the girl repeatedly, but that when he failed in his attempt to rescue her he walked a little over a mile back to the party. Arriving at the cottage, he maintains he "climbed into the back seat [of a car] and then asked for someone to bring me back to Edgartown. I remember walking around for a period of time and then going back to my hotel room." This statement is also confusing. It does not explain, for instance, why he failed to try to summon aid from the four or five lighted houses that he passed on the way to the cottage, one as few as 75 yards from the accident. It does not say how long he stayed in the back seat of the car or at what time he was driven back to his Edgartown hotel, if, in fact, he was driven back that night. The suspicion he may have been taken across by private boat persists, since the ferry had closed and both boat operators, Jerry Grant and Richard Hewitt, insist they did not take Sen. Kennedy or a car in which he was riding across the 150-yard inlet either Friday night or during the early morning hours on Saturday. Yet Saturday at approximately 8:10 a.m. he got on the ferry on the Edgartown side. Kennedy's statement also offers no explanation as to why no one inquired about his supposedly water-soaked clothes or whether anyone inquired about the missing girl or his missing car.

• Kennedy states that for a time he "was exhausted and in a state of shock" but that when "I fully realized what had happened this morning I immediately contacted the police." Yet there is doubt about this statement also. The *New York Times* reported in a July 22 dispatch from Edgartown that "...sources close to the Kennedy family gave the first indications of what happened when the senator returned dripping wet to the cottage where his friends had been holding a party, more than a mile from the scene of the accident.

"They said he collapsed in the back seat of a car parked out front and that his first words were 'Get me Markham.'" Paul Markham is a New England attorney who had attended the party and helped Teddy prepare his written statement for the police. Is a man who can immediately remember to call his attorney in a state of shock?

The *Times* reporter cast further doubt on Kennedy's description of his condition at the time of the accident. "Sen. Kennedy," the *Times* article continued, "told the police in a statement Saturday morning that he was in a state of shock from the time of the accident until he woke up in Edgartown in the morning. But the sources said he was able to give his friends an account of what happened [when he returned to the party]. He told them he could remember thinking: 'I am drowning. This is incredible.'"

The inconsistencies and the unanswered questions proliferate—not only because of Sen. Kennedy but because of the police investigation into the incident. Why, for instance, did Police Chief Arena fail to interrogate Kennedy when the senator handed Arena his prepared statement some nine hours after the fatal accident? Why was it that neither Arena nor County Prosecutor Walter Steele has questioned any of the party participants, at least one of whom has given statements to reporters? Why is it that Dr. Donald R. Mills, the medical examiner, was so reluctant to reveal the exact alcoholic content of Miss Kopechne's blood?

There is only one person who can really tell us what happened that doleful Saturday morning. And he, of course, is Teddy Kennedy. But by quickly pleading guilty to a relatively minor charge, the Massachusetts solon has so far avoided having to come up with a complete statement made under conditions that would subject him to the possibility of perjury charges.

Congress Spurns Economy Pleas

President Nixon ordered a \$3.5-billion cut in federal spending last week as he called upon Congress to practice the economy it so loudly preaches.

The chief executive said that he was determined to "hold the line" on the \$192.9-billion budget submitted last April, but noted that the Democratic Congress has given him little support.

"The new ceiling will be of little help in keeping federal spending under control if the Congress that imposed it does not cooperate fully with the Administration in meeting it," Nixon said, adding that the "general expression of support for fiscal restraint must now be matched by specific acts of the Congress."

By its action and inaction, Nixon noted, Congress has contributed to major increases in federal spending.

For example, Congress has yet to act on the postal rate increase that was supposed to go into effect July 1—meaning that the taxpayers will continue to pick up the postal deficit. In addition:

- A Nixon recommendation that Congress terminate the agricultural conservation program, in which farmers are subsidized for such activities as putting lime on their land, has been ignored. Money for the program has been approved in committee on both sides of the Capitol.

- A House appropriations subcommittee increased the President's aid-to-education requests by \$123.4 million and education lobbyists are hopeful they can add even more when the bill gets to the floor.

- A Nixon recommendation that the school milk program be terminated has also been ignored. Funds for the program have been approved in both versions of the agricultural appropriations bill.

Last week the Congress that has already raised its pay and increased its staff once again demonstrated that charity begins at home when it took up a little-noticed bill to refinance the Civil Service retirement fund.

The indefatigable H.R. Gross (R.-Iowa) led the opposition, noting that the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee had quietly added an entire section (Title II) to the bill that would grant "over \$1 billion in retirement liberalizations." Gross said that the Bureau of the Budget strongly opposed the amended bill and is prepared to recommend the President veto it.

Gross pointed out that the bill—as rewritten in committee—"provides benefits for members of Congress which are, in my opinion, out of all proportion to their retirement needs.

"Under the provisions of Title II, if adopted, members would be voting to give themselves greater retirement benefits right on top of an exorbitant pay increase."

Gross called upon his colleagues to save the taxpayers more than \$1 billion by deleting Title II—but to no avail. The House shouted down Gross' amendment on a non-record vote, then rejected 281 to 129 a recommittal motion by Rep. Edward Derwinski (R.-Ill). Passage of the bill followed on a 358-to-48 tally.

Medicare Overhaul Due

Widely overlooked in media coverage of the recent Medicare/Medicaid hearings of Sen. Russell Long's (D.-La.) Finance Committee was a telling indictment—not only of unscrupulous doctors—but of federal medicine in general.

While heralded by liberal proponents as a foolproof plan for inexpensive medical care for the needy before its passage in 1965, the current federal health care programs, drawn up by a Democratic Congress and federal bureaucrats,

were characterized by witnesses as being, in effect, an unpoliced goldmine for unscrupulous medical practitioners, where outrageous costs to the taxpayers greatly outweigh any marginal benefits to the poor and the aged.

Medicare/Medicaid costs, the committee found, have skyrocketed totally out of proportion to the number of people served under the program.

Michael Stern, a staff member of the Long committee, stated that although Medicaid costs are estimated to rise from \$3.5 billion to \$5.5 billion in the period 1968-1970, the number of people served under the program will only rise from 8.6 million to 10.2 million. Thus, Stern noted, the cost increase of 57 per cent is about three times the increase of the number of people served during the period.

According to Sen. John Williams (R.-Del.), ranking minority member of the committee, this fantastic mushrooming of Medicare/Medicaid costs, which has exploded the federal health care budget from \$1.3 billion in 1965 to an estimated \$5.5 billion in the current fiscal year, is due to extremely lax rules and administration of the programs. Williams noted that the fees set under federal Medicare average as much as two to four times the maximums of the non-governmental Blue Shield program.

John Venemen, under secretary of health, education and welfare, revealed startling evidence of administrative lack of control of the sprawling programs. "In '66," he told the committee, "we had 32 people to supervise the entire Medicaid program in the nation. Today we have 100." Furthermore, Venemen said, there is no authority under the present laws to deny reimbursement to a licensed practitioner, even one who has demonstrated a clear pattern of fraudulent activity.

(HEW Secretary Robert Finch is known to be extremely unhappy with the four-year performance of the entire Medicare/Medicaid program; and, according to informed Capitol Hill sources, he is said to be considering proposing a major overhaul of the entire federal health care system.)

Jay Constantine, another member of the committee staff, confirmed Venemen's analysis of the situation. "The administrative laxity which we found on Medicaid is just omnipresent; it is all over the place. There is very little control of the program at either federal, state, or local levels with respect to cost control and utilization." His conclusion: "Medicare is both victim and cause of inflation."

The result of this hastily drafted legislation and ultra-lax administration, the committee found, is an unprecedented opportunity for greedy medical operators to indulge themselves at taxpayers' expense.

Sen. Long himself catalogued several cases of flagrant abuse, including that of one general practitioner who billed Medicare for \$58,000 in 1968 for house calls to only 49 patients. At \$9 a call, this works out to a visit every third day for every one of his patients for an entire year. The senator noted: "Who says you can't get a doctor to make a house call anymore?"

In short, Congress—and the President—should think twice before pushing any extravagant new federal health programs.

REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Reprints are now available of "Are Soviets Planning Nuclear First Strike?", the four-page article by Phyllis Schlafly and Adm! Chester Ward which appeared in the May 24, 1969, issue of *Human Events*. Single copies 35¢; 10 for \$3; 50 for \$12.50; 100 for \$25. Also available because of popular demand, is the two-page article by Al Capp, "Harvard's Tragedy: Too Arrogant... Then Too Cowardly". Single copies 30¢; 10 for \$2.50; 50 for \$10; 100 for \$15.



LONG

1958. "All I knew, when I saw the car come through the stop light," said Whitten, "was that it was the same car I had seen do the same thing two nights before."

He asserted that two nights earlier he had chased the car through town at 90 m.p.h., but lost it when the driver cut his lights and eluded him. Later Whitten found the auto parked near Kennedy's home, its engine still warm. The chase two nights later followed the same form, Whitten related, but "this time I knew where he would end up. When I pulled up alongside him, he slid down in the seat, but I tapped him on the shoulder and said, 'Get out.'" Whitten charged him with "reckless driving—racing" and swore out a warrant for him the next day. Kennedy was convicted.

There was a minor effort to suppress the incident, charged Whitten, but no one knows who was responsible. Whitten remarked the case was simply "shelved. They kept it quiet for too damn long," he said.

• A Friend in Need

Dukes County (Martha's Vineyard) Special Prosecutor Walter Steele, the man who handled the state's case against Sen. Edward Kennedy, was a close associate of the Massachusetts senator and served with him as an assistant district attorney of Suffolk County (Boston) in the early 1960s. Steele for almost 15 years was in the office of Democratic District Attorney Garrett Byrne. Kennedy served under Byrne in 1961 and 1962 when he resigned to run successfully for the Senate. Steele is now in private practice in Boston and only since June has acted as a special prosecutor in Edgartown, where he is a summer resident.

Steele's political tie with Kennedy was dramatized when Scripps-Howard newspaper reporter Dan Thomasson interviewed the Dukes County prosecutor on Friday shortly after Steele refused to charge Kennedy with negligence in the accident which took the life of 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne. Reporter Thomasson asked to see the report Steele had quietly filed and which purportedly showed Kennedy had been driving over the fateful Chappaquiddick bridge with extreme caution, a most interesting conclusion.

Steele refused. When Thomasson noted that such reports are customarily open to public inspection, the prosecutor retorted:

"That's right, they are, but this one isn't. So sue me."

It was then that Thomasson inquired of Steele's prior association with Sen. Kennedy when both were assistant DAs.

"That's true," Steele exploded. "And if you're going to ask questions like that, you can leave. In fact, I'll have you shown out." Then, turning to a police officer standing nearby, Steele bellowed: "Take him out." And Thomasson was escorted from the room.

Steele's associations with Kennedy are very interesting when one considers the importance of the fact that he filed a report very quietly Thursday, before a full investigation was completed, in which he ruled out negligence—or drunken driving, another charge that had been mentioned. By only charging Kennedy with leaving the scene of an accident and allowing him to immediately plead guilty, he helped keep out of the case Edmund Dinis, the district attorney from Fall River and his superior in the state's legal hierarchy. Dinis' full entry into the investigation might well have been a set-back for Kennedy.

When Dinis ran for Congress in 1968, he was boycotted by the Kennedy forces. Dinis lost the race and has never been too happy with the Kennedy camp since then. As the Boston *Globe* remarked, Dinis "has never been regarded as a 'Kennedy Democrat.'"

Dinis, whose jurisdiction covers a four-county area and whose investigatory staff is larger than that available to Steele, originally seemed willing to let the case be handled by the Edgartown officials. As days passed, however, he became more critical of the way the investigation was being conducted. He claimed,

for example, that Steele and Police Chief Arena had bypassed him in deciding against an autopsy on Miss Kopechne, implying they erred in not seeing that one was performed.

Now that Steele has acted it has become more difficult, though not impossible, for Dinis to pursue the case. He could still, if he felt the evidence from further investigation warranted it, file a charge of negligence against Kennedy. Whether he does or not, seems to depend on his political courage. Although the Kennedys are far from his favorite family, does Dinis, who has ambitions for higher office, want to become involved in a public fight with them? Or will new information in the case force his hand?

• Tragedy at Chappaquiddick

The circumstances surrounding the tragic accident at Chappaquiddick Island, Mass., are still obscure, but last week, as reporters (including those from *Human Events*), swarmed onto the island and across the salt-water channel to Edgartown, parts of the story could be pieced together. (Teddy's scheduled television performance, which, of course, was not to be delivered under oath, was not televised in time for comment by *Human Events*.)

What had drawn Teddy to this fashionable resort area in the first place was the 46th Edgartown Yacht Club Regatta, a highlight of the local boating and social season. In a race late Friday afternoon, July 18, Teddy had placed far behind the front runners, with his craft "Victura" finishing a dismal ninth.

Also present for the festivities was a group of girls from Washington who were close to the Kennedy clan and had been active in the Bobby Kennedy campaign. Many of them were equally interested in working for Teddy. The ill-fated Mary Jo Kopechne, who had campaigned for JFK and been a secretary to Bobby, was already believed to have been helping Teddy with his political chores as an employe of Matt Reese Associates, a Washington-based political firm.

For the occasion of the regatta and the festivities afterward, Teddy and some of his male friends had rented six rooms for the weekend at the Shiretown Inn in Edgartown. Through John Crimmins, a South Boston man who frequently chauffeurs the senator, Kennedy had arranged to have the six girls take three twin bedrooms at the Katama Shores Motor Inn, about three miles south of Edgartown.

Meanwhile, a party, billed as a gathering for Bobby's old campaign workers, had been arranged for Friday night across the channel at Chappaquiddick. A two-bedroom cottage, with a living room, a bathroom and kitchen, had been rented there by Teddy's cousin, Joseph Gargan.

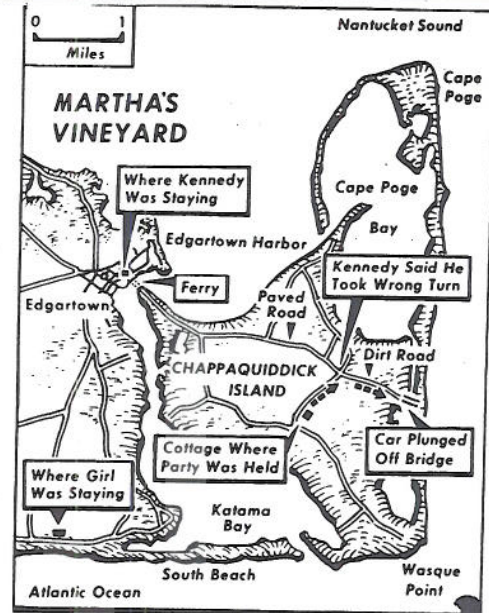
Following the boat races and what *Human Events* learned was a small cocktail party thrown in Teddy's room at the Shiretown Inn between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., Teddy, according to ferry boat operator Jerry Grant, crossed over to Chappaquiddick between 6 and 7 p.m.

Though one receives various interpretations of the party from those on the island, it was described by some as "one of those loud, noisy brawls" put on by island visitors. John Sylvia, 23, a Marine Corps veteran and lifelong resident of the island, said party noise diminished about 1:30 a.m., just as his family prepared to call police to quell the "disturbance."

"We were getting sick and tired of all the noise coming from that house," declared Sylvia, who lives 75 yards away, adding that neither he nor his family were aware Sen. Kennedy was at the affair. "There was yelling, music and general sounds of hell-raising," Sylvia recounted.

The Chappaquiddick party itself is something of a mystery. For days Kennedy sources refused to divulge the names of those who attended—and those who were definitely known to have been there refused to talk. After several days, it was learned that six men and six women attended.

The men included Kennedy, Gargan, Paul Markham, John Crimmins, Roy La Rosa and Charles Tretter.



The girls included Miss Kopechne, Nancy Lyons, Maryellen Lyons, Susan Tannenbaum and Esther Newberg.

Gargan, who rented the house for the party, is a cousin and political associate of Kennedy's; Markham is a former U.S. attorney in Massachusetts and appeared with Kennedy at the Edgartown police station the morning after the accident; Crimmins is described as a driver for Kennedy; La Rosa is a friend and sailing companion; Tretter is a political associate.

Miss Lyons still works for Kennedy, and her sister, Maryellen, is now employed by Massachusetts' State Sen. Beryl Cohen; Miss Keough works for the Children's Foundation in Washington. Miss Tannenbaum is now in the office of Rep. Allard Lowenstein (D.-N. Y.). Miss Newburg works for the Urban Institute in Washington.

Sometime around 11 or 12 that night, Teddy took his fateful ride with Miss Kopechne. There is only one official account of what happened between the time Teddy rode off with her in his Oldsmobile sedan and his appearance at the Edgartown police station some eight or nine hours later. (The Sorensonized/Goodwinized Kennedy TV speech, it must be stressed, is not part of the official record.) This statement was composed by Teddy in consultation with attorney Paul Markham and presented to Police Chief Dominick (Jim) Arena, a former state policeman, who handled the case. At about 3 p.m., roughly three hours after he received it, Arena read Teddy's account.

To reporters on the scene, the account appeared littered with evasions and misrepresentations:

• Kennedy claimed that about 11:15 p.m. he had decided to take Miss Kopechne back to the ferry, presumably so she could go to her hotel for the night. The only way automobiles can get between Chappaquiddick and Edgartown is aboard a two-car ferry that shuttles back and forth between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and midnight. But the police chief has said a Chappaquiddick resident, Christopher Look Jr., a Dukes County deputy sheriff, believes he saw Kennedy's 1967 Oldsmobile sedan about 12:40 a.m. Saturday, after the ferry would normally shut down. Mr. Look also thinks he saw two women in Teddy's car, and it has not gone unnoticed that a woman's purse, found in the submerged car, belonged to the senator's secretary, not Miss Kopechne.

• Kennedy said he was "unfamiliar with the road and turned right onto the Dyke Road instead of bearing hard left on Main Street" to catch the ferry. Chappaquiddick residents, however, claim that Teddy has frequently visited their island and believe he has been at the cottage where the party was held at least several times. Reporters who drove the same

Correction

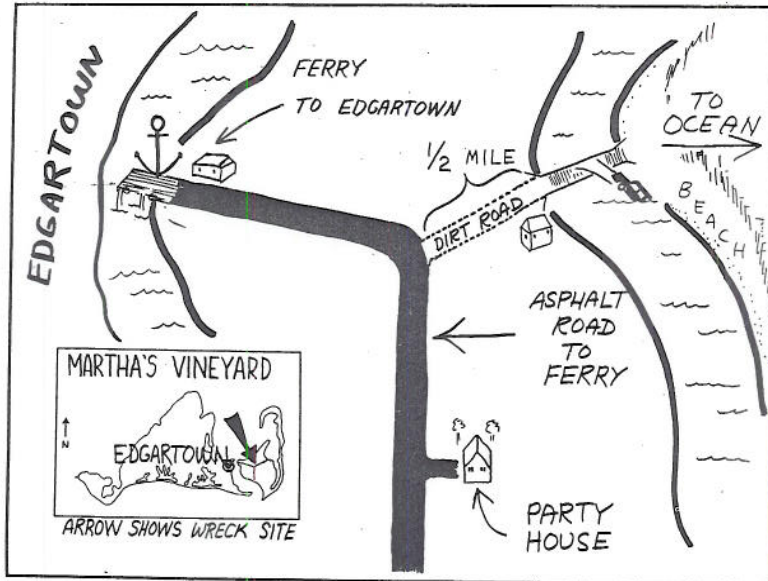
In our July 5 issue, page 3, we incorrectly reported that Rep. John Anderson (R.-Ill.), chairman of the Republican Conference, had tried to block a rollcall vote on the issue of whether House members should be entitled to an additional \$8,690-a-year office worker. Rep. Anderson voted in favor of the measure, but he did not attempt to prevent a rollcall. We very much regret the error.

More On the Teddy Kennedy Accident

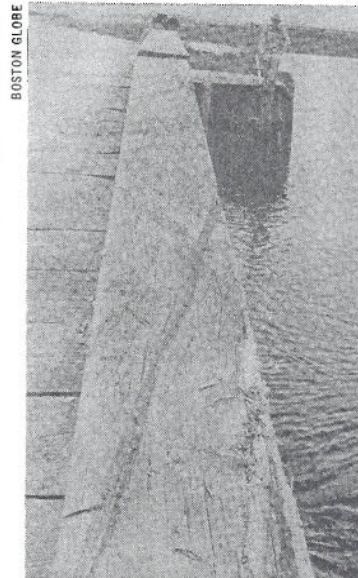
For full story, see page 3.



Mary Jo Kopechne, a former Bobby Kennedy staffer, met a tragic death when Teddy Kennedy's car plunged off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island.



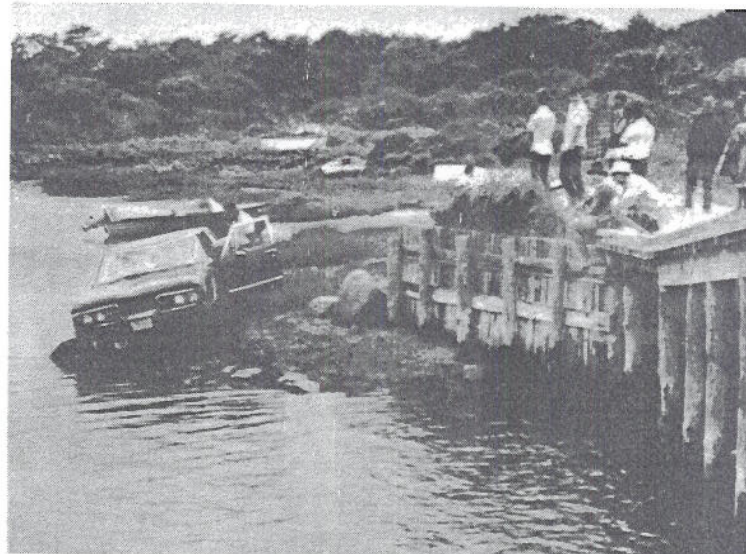
The map shows the scene of the accident.



Above are the scrape marks of the Kennedy car as it went off the bridge. The water is about eight feet deep at this point, with strong currents.



Above is the house where the party was held. Among the many mysteries surrounding Kennedy's story is why no one at the house seemed to think it unusual that the senator returned to the party soaking wet, supposedly "in a state of shock" and without his car.



The site of the fatal accident was a rickety wooden bridge leading to a deserted beach on the island. Kennedy claimed he made a wrong turn, but island residents say he was a frequent visitor to the area and should have known it well.

The following is the text of Sen. Kennedy's statement to the Edgartown police, given some nine hours after the fatal accident:

On July 18, 1969, at approximately 11:15 p.m. on Chappaquiddick Island, Martha's Vineyard, I was driving my car on Main Street on my way to get the ferry back to Edgartown. I was unfamiliar with the road and turned right onto Dike Road instead of bearing hard left on Main Street.

After proceeding for approximately one half-mile on Dike Road I descended a hill and came upon a narrow bridge. The car went off the side of the bridge. There was one passenger with me, Miss Mary Jo Kopechne, a former secretary of my brother, Robert Kennedy.

The car turned over and sank into the water and landed with the roof resting on the bottom. I attempted to open the door and window of the car but have no recollection of how I got out of the car.

I came to the surface and then repeatedly dove down to the car in an attempt to see if the passenger was still in the car. I was unsuccessful in the attempt.

I was exhausted and in a state of shock. I recall walking back to where my friends were eating. There was a car parked in front of a cottage and I climbed into the back seat.

I then asked someone to bring me back to Edgartown. I remember walking around for a period of time and then going back to my hotel room. When I fully realized what had happened this morning, I immediately contacted the police.



Sen. and Mrs. Kennedy, with Ethel Kennedy at left, attend the funeral of Miss Kopechne. She was an only child who had been working for a management consulting firm which reportedly was getting in gear for Teddy's 1972 presidential campaign.