

Kennedy Reported Favoring Autopsy

New York

A close associate said yesterday that Senator Edward M. Kennedy would "very much like" to have an autopsy performed on the body of Mary Jo Kopechne.

William Vanden Heuval said in a New York radio interview there never had been any opposition to an autopsy from Kennedy or any of his advisers.

"It was only after there was a great amount of public interest and speculation," he said, that District Attorney Edmund Dinis "then tried to order an autopsy.

"No one opposed one at the beginning. As a matter of fact, Senator Kennedy would very much like to have an autopsy now," Vanden Heuval said.

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Meanwhile it was learned County (Mass.) medical examiner who with District Attorney Edmund Dinis and

urged the exhumation of the body of Miss Kopechne, has withdrawn his support of the court petition filed in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"The sands of time have shifted," Dr. Robert W. Nevin said, "and the relative value of forces have shifted. An autopsy could have provided a completeness which can never be determined without it."

An associate of Nevin, Dr. Donald Mills, ruled that Miss Kopechne drowned when a car, driven by Kennedy, sent off a narrow bridge into a tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island. No autopsy was performed.

"I felt that an autopsy would have been of value," Nevin said, "but I also feel that as time goes on the relative value of things to be gained have diminished."

The petition for the autopsy is still before Judge Bernard C. Brominski in Common Pleas Court of Luzerne County, Pa.

U.P. & A.P.

Merry-Go-Round

Kennedy Ordeal Revives Tomorrow



Jack Anderson

Today's column is by the late Drew Pearson's associate, Jack Anderson

SENATOR Edward Kennedy's nightmare of July 18/19 — when he drove Mary Jo Kopechne off Dyke bridge to her death in the black waters below — will be revived tomorrow at the long-awaited inquest.

Thus far, the participants in the festivities before the tragedy, all Kennedy loyalists, haven't cooperated with District Attorney Edmund Dinis, whose preliminary investigation has raised as many questions as it has answered.

For instance, Deputy Sheriff Christopher S. Look Jr., who was driving on Chappaquiddick Island the midnight of the accident, has now positively identified the death car as the one he saw heading down Dyke road at 12:40 in the morning.

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"AND YOU are reasonably certain, Mr. Look," asked Dinis's chief investigator, Lieutenant George Killen, "that the car you saw being pulled out of the water on the morning of Saturday the 19th, that it was the same car that you saw at the intersection of Dyke road and Chappaquiddick road at approximately 12:40 - 12:45 a.m. on that same day?"

"Yes sir," said Look emphatically.

This was more than an hour after Kennedy said the accident had occurred.

Look said he had approached the car, thinking the driver might be lost.

"I noticed a man driving and a woman on the other side and either an object or another person in the back seat," he testified. The latter could have been "some clothing or a hat or a pocketbook on the back ledge," he said.

Before he could reach the car, he said, it "drove off down Dyke road."

He continued on his way home and encountered a man and two women strolling near the Chappaquiddick fire station.

"They were acting very happily and unconcerned," recalled Look, "so I stopped and asked them if they would like to have a lift. The girl — the tall girl in the back closest to me — said, 'Shove off, Bud.'"

"The man was very polite and said, 'thank you, sir, but we are only going to this cottage house.'" He pointed to the cottage where the Kennedy party had been holding a cookout. This tends to confirm my original report that the people at the cookout had started to drift off in pairs for a midnight swim. Kennedy invited Mary Jo for a swim, say insiders, about 11:30 p.m.

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AFTER the tragedy Kennedy spent the night, according to my sources, trying to establish an alibi for himself. He left the island and made a point of being seen by his innkeeper on the mainland at 2:25 a.m. His original idea was to let his cousin, Joe Gargan, take the rap for him. Kennedy changed his mind, however, after crossing back to the island on the ferry and learning that the accident had been discovered.

For a week after the Chappaquiddick incident, say intimates, he brooded about it and wouldn't discuss the details with his most intimate advisers.

The old Kennedy buoyancy still hasn't returned. The signs of strain show on his face. He avoids looking people in the eye. He is a tragically sad figure as he resumes his ordeal this week at the inquest.

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