

# Special Guards for Mary Jo Inquest

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EDGARTOWN (Mass.) — State and local police, concerned over 300 "vicious" letters concerning Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) are taking extraordinary security measures for the inquest scheduled to begin here tomorrow.

Meanwhile, at Hyannis Port, Kennedy was deciding whether to have his lawyers seek a federal court order to delay the inquest proceedings.

The Kennedy attorneys demanded last week full Constitutional safeguards during

the inquest but were rebuffed by Judge James A. Boyle.

District Attorney Edmund Dinis, who requested the inquest into the death of Miss Mary Jo Kopechne, said the proceedings here may run into next week. Three days had been expected as the limit.

At least 17 uniformed and plainclothes police will augment the six-man Edgartown force, Police Chief Dominic J. Arena said.

Arena will head the beefed-up security forces including state police and officers from nearby towns. He plans to have the 111-year-old courthouse searched prior to the proceedings.

The police chief said he is studying possible special routes for the Kennedy car to the front porch of the courthouse to avoid exposing him to the expected mob.

"We aren't going to take chances," Arena asserted.

Although Arena described as "vicious . . . hate" mail about 30 percent of the 1000 letters he has received since Kennedy drove a car carrying Miss Kopechne off a bridge, none have been direct threats.

Another 30 percent were critical of Kennedy, 20 percent backed the Massachusetts senator, and about 20

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percent supported Arena's handling of the case, the chief said.

Dinis said Judge Boyle will control the order of the 20 or more witnesses at the inquest, but speculated they will be called in approximately this sequence:

- Local residents including Arena, the medical examiner who ruled an autopsy was not needed, a deputy sheriff who saw a car resembling Kennedy's Oldsmobile on Chappaquiddick Island more than an hour after Kennedy suggested the accident occurred. Ferry operators,

an undertaker and others.

- The five girls and at least one male friend of Kennedy who attended the Chappaquiddick cottage party preceding Miss Kopechne's fatal midnight ride.

- Joseph F. Gargan, a lawyer and Kennedy's cousin, and Paul F. Markham, another close friend and a former U.S. attorney, who advised Kennedy after the accident. Kennedy will be one of the last to appear, Denis speculated.

A spokesman for Kennedy pointed out the senator had the option of fighting inquest rules laid down by Judge Boyle. Kennedy's lawyers had unsuccessfully fought to get him full constitutional protection — cross-examination of witnesses and the like — at the inquest.

Already Edgartown was attracting the curious and floods of newspapermen and TV personnel. Correspondents have arrived from as far away as Madrid and Paris.

A Boston transcript firm will pump out verbatim pages of the inquest for news media and others interested.