

NEW KENNEDY CLUE -- BLOOD

## Clues Told In Plea for Autopsy

WILKES-BARRE (Pa.)

— (AP) — Massachusetts District Attorney Edmund Dinis was granted a new hearing today on his petition for an autopsy on the body of Mary Jo Kopechne after he filed an amended version that said a certain amount of blood was present in the mouth and nose of the dead girl.

Judge Bernard C. Brominski set Sept. 29 at 10 a.m. for the hearing requested by the New Bedford, Mass., prosecutor.

Dinis also said, in applying again for an autopsy on the dead girl's body, that the white shirt she was wearing when Sen. Edward Kennedy's car went off a bridge was stained with what appeared to be blood.

### Inquest Delayed

Miss Kopechne, a Washington, D.C., secretary, was found dead July 19 in Kennedy's car which had gone off a bridge into a pond on Chappaquiddick Island off the Massachusetts coast.

An inquest into her death was postponed earlier this month.

Dinis' letter to the court said that "investigation has revealed there was present a certain amount of blood in both Mary Jo Kopechne's mouth and nose, which may or may not have been consistent with death by drowning."

### 'Doubt, Suspicion'

The letter said these facts were not available to Dinis

until after the girl was buried in Larksville, Pa.

"If the autopsy should disclose that her death resulted from some cause other than drowning, the inquest may then proceed in the direction appropriate in the light of information thus revealed," said Dinis, in detailing his

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reasons for requesting the autopsy.

He said that "in order that the circumstances of death be clearly established and the doubt and suspicion surrounding the death be resolved, an exhumation and autopsy will be required."

On Oct. 8, Kennedy's lawyers go before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to detail their opposition to the ground rules for the inquest Dinis sought.

Edgartown District Court Judge James A. Boyle ruled that Kennedy's lawyers could not cross-examine witnesses, and that more than 100 newsmen, but not the public, would be admitted to the courtroom.

### Review Ordered

The day before the inquest was to open, Supreme Court Justice Paul O. Reardon granted the request of Kennedy's lawyers that the full bench review his claim that

his constitutional rights would be violated because of Judge Boyle's inquest ground rules.

The disclosure by Dinis of apparent bloodstains on the dead girl's clothing was the first time any mention has been made in the case regarding blood.

### 'Just Rumor'

Dinis's petition said the two statements Kennedy made about the accident "are silent on many important details of the accident, and the events immediately preceding and following it."

Dr. Donal Mills, the associate medical examiner who viewed the body, ruled that the girl died of drowning.

Dinis could not be reached to comment on how his office learned of the blood or from whom.

James L. Kenney, attorney for Mills, declined comment on the latest development but asked where Dinis came up with his new information. "It's all just rumor to me," he said.

Police Chief Dominick J. Arena of Edgartown, who was present when the senator's car was pulled from the pond, said he doesn't remember seeing any blood on Miss Kopechne.

Undertaker Eugene Friehe declined comment on the matter of blood.