HEARING ON KOPECHNE AUTOPSY REQUEST IS SET AFTER DINIS REPORTS FINDING BLOOD

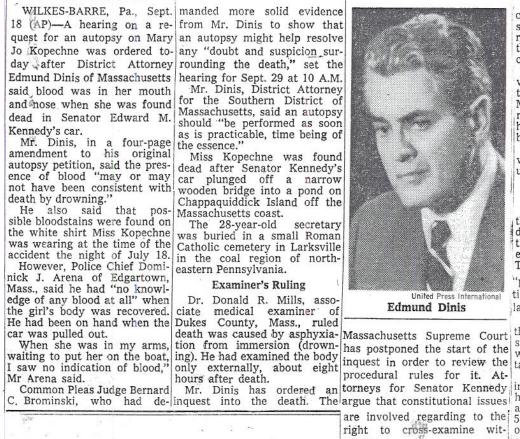
## Hearing on Kopechne Autopsy Request

quest for an autopsy on Mary day after District Attorney Edmund Dinis of Massachusetts said blood was in her mouth and nose when she was found dead in Senator Edward M. Kennedy's car.

Mr. Dinis, Dinis, District Attorney for the Southern District of Massachusetts, said an autopsy should "be performed as soon as is practicable, time being of the essence."

Miss Konechne was found

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Sept. manded more solid evidence -A hearing on a re- from Mr. Dinis to show that an autopsy might help resolve Jo Kopechne was ordered to- any "doubt and suspicion surrounding the death," set the



pleaded guilty to violating a would not contain an an pool large enough to sustain life. motor vehicle law.

motor vehicle law.

Miss Kopechne's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopechne of Berkeley Heights. N. J., who are vigorously opposed to exhumation, declined comment on Mr. Dinis's latest petition.

One of their Wilkes-Barre attorneys, Joseph Flanagan, said he would consult with them before deciding whether to try once more to have Judge. Brominski dismiss the autopsyrequest because of insufficient request because of insufficient evidence, or pursue the fight at the Sept. 29 hearing.

Mr. Dinis in his amended petition said that:

tition said that:

"There appear on the white shirt worn by Mary Jo Kopechne 'washed out' reddish brown and brown stains on the backs of both sleeves, the back and collar; that these stains give positive benzidine reaction, an indi-

cation of the presence of cation of the presence of cation is ideal traces of blood; that sail residue is of insufficient amount to make further test as to specific origin or type.

"That investigation has revealed there was present a certain amount of blood in both mary to Kopechae's mouth and

Mary Jo Kopechne's mouth and nose, which may or may not

have been consistent with death by drowning.

"That this information . . . . was not available to petitioners until after interment."

## **Medical Comment**

Medical sources queried about the Dinis petition said yester-day that in a simple drowning there is no blood, per se, pres-ent in the oral or nasal cavities. There often is, however, a "pinkish froth" that is some-times mistaken for blood by laymen, they said.

If blood was indeed present, they continued, other factors should be considered, one of which is possible injury sustained in the accident itself.

Studies of accidents involving submerged automobiles have shown that the impact of

are involved regarding to the right to cross-examine witnesses.

Senator Kennedy has admitted driving the car at the time of the accident, and not reporting the accident to the police until some 10 hours later. He pleaded guilty to violating a significant ling succession with the sentence of the accident of the police until some 10 hours later. He pleaded guilty to violating a significant ling succession was shown that the impact of a car hitting the water from 5 feet is strong enough to break out all its windows. The Kennedy car fell from a height of 10 feet. Senator Kennedy reportedly sustained a head injury in the accident.

Tests have also shown that a car submerged in an upside-down position, as the car was, would not contain an air pocket large enough to sustain life.