

Autopsy Hearing Set

Kopecnes' Appeal Rejected

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

A judge rejected yesterday the appeal of Mary Jo Kopecne's parents and granted Massachusetts authorities a hearing in their request for an autopsy on the girl, who died in Senator Edward M. Kennedy's car.

Judge Bernard C. Brominski said the hearing on an amended petition for a post mortem filed September 18 by District Attorney Edmund S. Dinis, of New Bedford, Mass., would serve the "interests of both the public and the Kopecnes."

He set October 20 for the hearing, which he said will give Dinis the "opportunity to prove the allegations" in his request for an autopsy.

Dinis, ordered by Judge Brominski after his original motion September 3 to show

why an autopsy should be conducted, said in his amended petition that blood was found in the nose and mouth of the 28-year-old secretary and on her blouse.

Joseph F. Flanagan, attorney for the Kopecnes, had

asked that a hearing on the autopsy bid be delayed pending the outcome of an inquest in Edgartown, Mass., which has been postponed pending appeals before the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

United Press

NYTimes

11 Oct 69

OCT. 20 HEARING SET IN KOPECHNE DISPUTE

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Oct. 10 —A judge rejected the appeal of the parents of Mary Jo Kopecne today and granted the Massachusetts authorities a hearing "to bring to light facts" in their request for an autopsy on the girl who died in the car of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. President Judge Bernard C. Brominski said the hearing on an amended petition for a post-mortem filed Sept. 18 by Dis-

trict Attorney Edmund S. Dinis, of New Bedford, Mass., would serve the "interests of both the public and the Kopecnes."

He set Oct. 20 for the hearing that he said would give Mr. Dinis the "opportunity to prove the allegations" in his request for an autopsy. Miss Kopecne died when the auto driven by Senator Kennedy fell off a bridge into a tidal pond at Chappaquiddick Island in Massachusetts, July 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopecne, of Berkeley Heights, N. J., have opposed an autopsy

on their daughter, who is buried in nearby Larksville.

Mr. Dinis says an autopsy is necessary so the "circumstances" of Miss Kopecne's death can be "clearly established and the doubt and suspicion surrounding it be resolved."