

Gallup Poll

# Ted Not Winning

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PRINCETON, N. J. — Sen. Edward Kennedy appears to have made no progress in the last four months in winning back the large numbers of voters who deserted his cause in the wake of his July 18 car accident which took the life of Mary Jo Kopechne.

The latest nationwide survey, in fact, shows a slight decline in "highly favorable" attitudes toward the Massachusetts senator since a survey conducted in late July following the accident. Among all persons interviewed, 28 per cent currently give Kennedy a "highly favorable" rating. The July percentage was 34 per cent.



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Last March, before the accident, nearly half of all persons interviewed, 49 per cent, gave him a "highly favorable" rating.

A comparison of the latest survey with March's shows where Kennedy has lost appeal and at the same time indicates the groups he must win back if he hopes to improve his political stature and regain his earlier frontrunner position among Democratic voters.

Survey evidence shows that Sen. Kennedy's losses since March have come equally among men and women, Protestants and Catholics, and among all age groups.

To determine the trend in attitudes toward Sen. Kennedy, a sensitive attitude measuring device called the Stapel Scalometer was employed.

The following table compares the latest ratings with those recorded in March before the accident. A total of 1550 adults were in-



**TED KENNEDY**

terviewed in the latest survey, which was conducted Oct. 31-Nov. 5.

**PUBLIC'S RATING OF KENNEDY**

	Nov. March		Survey Change
	Survey	Survey	
National .....	28	49	-21
Men .....	24	45	-21
Women .....	31	52	-21
21-29 years .....	31	51	-20
30-49 years .....	30	49	-19
50 & over .....	23	46	-23
College .....	15	35	-20
High school .....	29	54	-25
Grade school .....	36	50	-14
Protestants .....	22	41	-19
Catholics .....	42	65	-23

# Back Voters

Sen. Kennedy's failure thus far to recover his popularity losses can be explained in large measure in terms of the unresolved questions many Americans still have concerning his July 18 accident.

In an October survey, all persons in the sample (1514) were asked this question:

Suppose you could ask Sen. Edward Kennedy any question you wished to about his July 18 car accident on Chappaquiddick Island—what specific questions would you most like to ask?

The questions that arise most often are those which have been asked by members of the press on countless occasions. It is of interest, however, to discover the questions that are uppermost in the minds of average citizens.

The question the largest number of people would like to ask is: Why didn't he report the accident sooner? One man said, "Why the nine-hour delay in reporting an accident to the authorities when there was a life involved? Another in the survey said, "Kennedy may have been too shocked to do anything about telling the police about the accident, but what about his lawyer friends?

These two questions are raised next most frequently: Why was he on that road to begin with? And why was he with the girl?

A Wethersfield, Conn., housewife said, "I think Sen. Kennedy has an obligation to give a clear explanation of why he was on a back road with the girl when he knows the area so well."

Other questions, listed in order of frequency of mention, are: Was he drinking? Why didn't he try harder to save the girl? Why wasn't his wife with him? Why was he at the party? Was there another woman in the car?

It is important to note that three persons in every 10 interviewed (29 per cent) said they did not have specific questions they would like to ask, while another one in ten did not express an opinion.

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