

Ted's Friends Testify Behind Closed Doors

By JOSEPH E. MOHBAT
EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP)
—Joseph F. Gargan and Paul S. Markham, who Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said helped him dive in an attempt to rescue Mary Jo Kopechne the night of Kennedy's Chappaquiddick Island auto accident, testified today in the closed inquest into Miss Kopechne's death.

In accordance with court orders they remained silent, neither revealed what they said.

But Kennedy said in his nationally televised speech a week after the accident that Gargan and Markham returned to the accident scene with him and assisted him in his unsuccessful search for Miss Kopechne.

He said they still were with him when he dived into the channel separating Chappaquiddick from Martha's Vineyard and swam the 200 yards back to the Vineyard.

ALSO TESTIFYING today was one of the five Robert F. Kennedy campaign girls who with Miss Kopechne had attended a cookout on Chap-

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paquiddick before the accident. Six men were at the cookout also, including Kennedy, Markham and Gargan.

First on the stand was Miss Rosemary Keough, 24, an attractive secretary with reddish-brown hair who now works for the Children's Foundation in Washington.

Her purse was found in Kennedy's car when it was pulled from the pond where it fell from the narrow dike bridge. Miss Keough said previously that she left the purse behind unintentionally after using the car earlier to pick up a radio at her motel room on Martha's Vineyard.

MEANWHILE A PAIR of black, rust-streaked doors, apparently from the passenger side of Kennedy's auto, were brought into the courthouse in the rear of a station wagon by state police.

The purpose of their presence could not be determined immediately.

Kennedy, who was the inquest's lead-off witness yesterday, remained at his home in Hyannis Port today, where he said he will stay for the duration of the inquest in the event further testimony is needed.

LEAVING THE courthouse yesterday after some two hours of testimony, Kennedy appeared as relaxed and affable as the solemnity of the inquiry permitted. He told a crowd of newsmen not only did he respond to all the questions asked of him by Judge James A. Boyle, who is presiding, and others, but he did so in "the most complete way possible."

CHOOSING HIS words carefully, Kennedy went on: "At the end there were a couple of points I thought it would be useful to add to help with the record." He did not elaborate.

Judge Boyle had forbidden witnesses to discuss testimony outside of the court. Kennedy, when asked whether his testimony had paralleled the nationally televised version he offered one week after the July 18 accident on nearby Chappaquiddick Island, said:

"I'd rather not characterize the testimony but I would say yes, substantially."

THE MANNER OF the 37-year-old senator who emerged from the quaint, old courthouse yesterday was in vivid contrast to the pale, haggard figure who came through the same double white doors last July with a two-month suspended jail sentence for leaving the accident scene and with his political future thrown in doubt.

Kennedy reportedly was satisfied by the three-page rules of procedure announced at the outset by Judge Boyle and made available to the press by the judge lest it "publish that which is conjectural or distorted."

Most of the party-goers have yet to testify, as do the Edgartown officials and residents involved in the case.

There was no reliable estimate of how long the inquest would last. Judge Boyle, leaving the court smiled and said: "It's been a long day."

ISLANDERS SAY Kennedy's mid-summer misfortune irritated them most because of the crowds of the curious that it brought in and this noisy interruption of its January hibernation.

But one telephone worker, a life-long islander, said: "Actually it's pretty interesting for us. Usually all we have to do in winter here is look out the window and watch the hub-caps rust."