

Kopeczne Inquest's Transcript Held Up at Direction of Court

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BOSTON, April 8—The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court agreed today to hold up release of the transcript of the secret Mary Jo Kopeczne inquest pending a decision on the status of the inquest stenographer's notes.

The Stenographer, Sidney R. Lipman, a freelance court reporter, is seeking return of the stenotype notes he took during the four-day inquest last January.

He said that he needed the notes to supply customers, mainly newspapers and magazines, with copies of the 764-page transcript, which they ordered from him at \$1.05 a page.

The transcript contains the sworn testimony of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who was driving the car in which Miss Kopeczne drowned July 18 when it went off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island off Martha's Vineyard.

Release of the transcript and the judge's report appeared imminent yesterday when a grand jury in Edgartown, Mass., completed a two-day investigation of Miss Kopeczne's death without indicting anyone.

District Attorney Edmund Dinis said that the case was closed and no further prosecution was planned. The Supreme Court had ruled that the documents would be made public when the possibility of prosecution had ended.

Mr. Lipman and his attorney, Jerome P. Facher, appeared before the Supreme Court at noon today and requested the delay in the release. The court complied and notified Superior Court Clerk Edward V. Keating not to release the documents pending further orders from the court.

Mr. Lipman said that in lieu of getting back his notes he would accept a copy of the transcript from which he could mimeograph other copies.

It is common practice in Massachusetts for court reporters to sell transcripts. However the court has announced that it will print copies of the transcript and judges' reports that can be purchased for \$75 a set.

Mr. Facher said that he planned to act further in the matter tomorrow either by filing legal papers or requesting another appearance before the Supreme Court.