PEOPLE in the News

Ted Exonerated, Victim's Mom Says



MRS. GWENDOLYN KOPECHNE

Mrs. Gwendolyn Kopechne says she believes a Massachusetts grand jury has exonerated Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, driver of an automobile in which her daughter drowned after a party on Chappaquiddick Island, near Martha's Vineyard.

"It was an accident. There's no doubt about it," she said yesterday in Berkeley Heights, N. J., of the death of her daughter, Mary Jo Kopechne.

Mrs. Kopechne said she and her husband are "looking forward" to studying the transcripts of an inquest into their daughter's death. The transcripts, held under court order, are expected to be released soon, possibly next week: