

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1970

## Delay in Kopechne Inquest Data Is Linked to Liability of Clerk

BOSTON, April 24 (AP) — State Attorney General Robert H. Quinn called today for the "full and speedy disclosure and publication of the report and transcripts of the report and transcripts of evidence" of the Mary Jo Kopechne inquest.

Mr. Quinn told a news conference that the "overriding public interest was for continued confidence in our court systems and the administration of justice."

Miss Kopechne, 28 years old, was killed last July 18 when a car driven by Senator Edward M. Kennedy went off a narrow bridge on Chappaquiddick Island.

An inquest into her death was held last January in Duke County District Court at Edgartown. The papers connected with the proceeding were filed Feb. 18.

### Clerk's Liability a Key

Mr. Quinn said the major problem in releasing the papers from the office of the Suffolk County Superior Court clerk, Edward V. Keating, was "the personal liability" involved for Mr. Keating.

He said that since April 15 his staff had met with judges of various courts involved in the case on 14 occasions in attempts to resolve the question of how has the responsi-

bility for releasing copies of the papers.

A court stenographer, Sidney R. Lipman, has contended in a suit before Federal courts that he has the right to distribute copies of the testimony because he recorded the original proceedings.

Mr. Quinn told the news conference that the United States District Court had ruled in favor of Mr. Keating, but that the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit had said that Mr. Keating would distribute copies at his "own risk."

### New Legislation Possible

The Attorney General said the if the situation was not resolved by Monday he would file emergency legislation designed to protect Mr. Keating. He said he had been assured by legislative leaders and the Governor that immediate action would be sought.

"I am still hopeful that by the first of next week we will be able to resolve this matter and get the report and transcripts distributed," Mr. Quinn said.

If the matter is not solved by next week, Mr. Quinn said, he will ask the Appeals Court to hear the stenographer's case as soon as possible, "remembering that it may take many months before Federal litigation can be concluded.