

KENNEDY IS RUNNING HARD AGAINST 1964 VOTE TOTAL

by R.W. Apple Jr.

..... The Senator acknowledge in an interview this week that both politicians and pundits ... will ascribe the almost inevitable fall-off in his vote to his automobile accident last year on Chappaquiddick Island ... in which Mary Jo Kopechne was drowned.

..... "The voters need reassurance," the Santor said. "They need to see me, to be convinced that I'm reliable and mature. You can't counter the Chappaquiddick thing directly. The answer has to be implicit in what you are, what you stand for and how they see you."

But Chappaquiddick has cost the Senator some support, perhaps more than public opinion polls demonstrate. And he knows tht a weak showing will severely damage whatever chances he might have for the Presidency in 1976, or in 1972 if he changes his mind and decides to run.

So Mr. Kennedy is campaigning hard

(Clipping filed EMK [A].)