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Kennedy Hedges On '76

Washington

Senator Edward M. Kennedy said yesterday his family did not want him to run for President, but that did not necessarily mean he would not seek the nomination in 1976.

The Massachusetts Democrat made the comment in a television interview one day before the tenth anniversary of the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

"My wife Joan and my sisters, mother and nieces and nephews are uniformly against that possibility (his candidacy) and their interests and welfare are really the first consideration," he said. "Where it will be some time in the future is sort of an open question."

Kennedy, interviewed on NBC's "Today" show, said, "the prime considerations are family responsibility."

But he added that should he decide to run, his family would support his decision. They would, he said, "support a decision I would make, irrespective of what direction it would take."

Kennedy, whose other brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was assassinated while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination in Los Angeles, said that if he did run, it would be up to the voters to make a judgment of his "personal character."

Responding to a question about his auto accident in which Mary Jo Kopechne was killed on Chappaquiddick Island, Mass., Kennedy replied:

"If I am a candidate, the people will have an opportunity to speak on that issue."

United Press