

Joan's Date In Court

McLean, Va.

Joan Kennedy was ordered yesterday to appear in Fairfax county Traffic Court November 6 to answer a charge that she was driving under the influence of alcohol when her car hit another in suburban Virginia.

Mrs. Kennedy, wife of Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), was charged Wednesday with driving under the influence of alcohol after her white convertible bumped the rear of a car which was stopped at a red light not far from the Kennedy home in this suburban town.

That car in turn hit a third auto. There were no injuries, and total damage to the cars involved was estimated by police at \$1400.

Edward McGrath, a Defense Department employee whose car was damaged in the accident, said he did not

detect "any real evidence" that Mrs. Kennedy was intoxicated and said he was surprised when an officer told him she was being charged with driving under the influence.

"I really thought she was a nice lady," he said. "She said over and over again she was really sorry that it happened and just thankful that no one was hurt."

Officer Doris Cooper of the Fairfax county police said the November 6 court date was set yesterday.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney William Bechtold said conviction on the misdemeanor charge carries a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail and a \$1000 fine. Conviction means loss of driver's license for a minimum of six months and possibly for up to one year under Virginia law.

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