

MAY 4 1970

## KENNEDY SUPPORT SOLID IN HIS STATE

Luster Hasn't Been Dimmed  
by Judge's Inquest Report

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON

Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, May 3—"Ladies, if you'll maintain your composure," said Chairlady Edie O'Leary moments before Senator Edward M. Kennedy arrived at a luncheon outing for Democratic women on the edge of Boston harbor, "the Senator will visit each table on the boat. We certainly want to give him a standing ovation, but we don't want to crush him."

The enthusiasm of Senator Kennedy's audience—predominantly Irish women of middle age and beyond—was one of many expressions of renewed Kennedy fervor last week after release of the inquest report on the death of Mary Jo Kopechne.

Judge James A. Boyle concluded in the report, released last Wednesday, that Senator Kennedy may have driven negligently and that such driving may have contributed to Miss Kopechne's death. Their car went off a bridge and into a tidal inlet on Chappaquiddick Island the night of last July 18-19. Miss Kopechne drowned.

### Veracity Questioned

The judge also questioned the truthfulness of elements of Senator Kennedy's testimony at the inquest.

But in a weekend tour, a warmup for Mr. Kennedy's reelection campaign this summer, the Senator found his essential base of Roman Catholic Democrats rock-solid.

Those few who seemed interested in the inquest wanted only to denounce it. "I think it's turned to persecution from prosecution," said Marion McCourt, president of the Women on Wheels, the organization that sponsored the luncheon yesterday.

Some suggested that if Judge Boyle had not retired last week, he could have been impeached. "The judge should have charged him with something or kept his mouth shut—that's what I honestly think," said Claire Buckley Dwyer, a party worker from the town of Woburn.

Many more seemed happy to forget. "People talked themselves out about Chappaquiddick all last summer," said the wife of a prominent politician. "People really aren't interested any more."

Senator Kennedy's first speech on Friday, to the Advertising Club of Boston, appealed to "men of substance" to speak out against the "madness" of expanded fighting in Cambodia. Yesterday morning, speaking about drug abuse to the Massachusetts Teachers Association, Mr. Kennedy dealt with the specific problems and attempted remedies in individual high schools around Greater Boston, and the conversation afterward was about the Senator's contributions to the solution of local problems.

"I don't mean to whitewash him," said James Conlon, a junior high school teacher from Longmeadow. "But when a person has a great deal to offer, you don't condemn him permanently. It's time to go on to bigger and more important issues."

### 'Double Standards'

Several teachers suggested that their students' rising impatience with "hypocrisy and double standards" in public life now weighs in Senator Kennedy's favor.

"What the kids see as hypocritical is the nag, nag, nag," Frank Girdona of Longmeadow High School said. "They know that the people who keep bringing up Chappaquiddick are ridiculous. I'm sorry it happened, but I don't want to lose the guy. I don't know who would replace him."

Senator Kennedy, who had been cordially mobbed on Friday evening at a dinner of Boston firefighters, looked almost carelessly confident last night with the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra and the concert audience to whom he had Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait."

Later, on the way home to Hyannis Port, he stopped briefly at a fund-raising dance for the Sacred Heart School in Plym-

outh. A dozen nuns met him at the school door, and many of them leaned from the balcony as he signed autographs for school parents in the gymnasium.

"We are overflowing with love and compassion," one of the Sacred Heart mothers said. "We simply want people to leave him alone and let him be a good Senator."

The Kennedy spell seems to touch everyone. At Symphony Hall, one percussionist on the stage saved his program to Senator Kennedy as he stood in the wings, signaling that he would insist on an autograph before Mr. Kennedy departed.

"I am very fond of him," said the conductor, Arthur Fiedler. "I never saw a man look so fit and fine as he does—for a fellow with a few things on his mind."

### Senator Firm on '72

WASHINGTON, May 3 (AP)—Senator Edward M. Kennedy insisted anew today that he will not seek the Democratic nomination for President in 1972 and "I would not accept a draft." But he left the door open beyond that year.

The Senator made his comments on the Metromedia Radio News interview program "Profile."