

Kennedy Presses Despite a Sure Victory

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BOSTON, Oct. 31 — Senator Edward M. Kennedy is ending his re-election campaign with a grinding schedule of appearances in every cove and hollow of the state in a desperate race against himself.

Though the campaign of his Republican opponent, Josiah A. Spaulding, is a weak, poorly financed effort, Senator Kennedy has pursued a torrid pre-dawn to late-evening schedule of personal appearances for the last three weeks.

The only question, but an important one, is by how large a margin Senator Kennedy can win. The size of his margin is to give some indication of the feeling of the people of the state on the accident at Chappaquiddick last year.

An aide to the Senator expressed the staff's feeling about the election as he ran to keep up with the Senator at a manufacturing plant last week.

"This election," the aide said, "will let us know just where we stand. More importantly, it will let Ted know how effective his voice can be on national issues."

No Antiliberal Attack

Senator Kennedy is one of the few liberal Democrats who is not facing a strong anti-liberal attack this year by the Republicans. Mr. Spaulding, who supported Governor Rockefeller for the Presidency in 1968 when he headed the state Republican committee, has few friends in Washington. He has been ignored by the national party and has received no money or other campaign help.

Factories and workshops are fertile ground for a Democrat here this year and because of high unemployment Senator Kennedy plows it deeply and often. But, he does his work in these areas on a man-to-man basis without elaborate staging that would attract national attention to his attacks on the Nixon Administration's economic policies.

Woven through all the campaigning is the understanding that Senator Kennedy is meeting the people face-to-face—to leave it to them whether an issue remains from Chappaquiddick, where Mary Jo Kopechne, a Washington secretary, died in the Senator's car when it plunged off a bridge.

The verdict apparently is that the incident at the bridge, if it is an issue, is one that will not be discussed.

"I have yet to find a single person, other than newsmen—and few of them—to raise the issue," Senator Kennedy said. "Don't ask me why because I don't know. I just know that

there have been thousands of opportunities for people to bring it up but no one has."

Mr. Spaulding has remained true to his primary promise not to raise the issue. Instead he attacks on an oblique angle, charging that the Senator is "not the shadow" of either of the other Kennedy brothers who won national office.

In fact, Mr. Spaulding hardly raises any issue for he has no money. Though he has the film, there is no money to buy television time and there has yet to be a TV campaign even in the Boston area. Radio is nearly as vacant of Spaulding pitches.

The effort is so meager, in fact, that Senator Kennedy has cut back sharply on his own television and radio campaign to avoid negative comparisons. A large part of the \$60,000 worth of campaign film purchased from Charles Guggenheim of Washington remains in film cans.

"If I had until Doomsday," says Mr. Spaulding, "I think I could beat Senator Kennedy. But I don't have that long."

In the end, judgments will be made on how close the Senator can come to repeating the 71 per cent vote he received in

1964. For a number of reasons that goal is impossible—even had Chappaquiddick never become a household word—but every point off of that margin in a race with a weak opponent and a race ignored by the Nixon Administration, will be a point against Senator Kennedy's future as a national leader.

Two Other Races Cited

Because of the work that Senator Kennedy has put into the campaign—with diligent service from members of the family—a poor showing can only be attributed to a moral judgment passed by voters who remember the summer incident.

At least two other races may indirectly affect the total Democratic vote, and thus the Kennedy vote. Boston's Mayor Kevin H. White has been able in the last few days to resurrect a failing campaign against the incumbent Republican Governor, Francis W. Sargent.

Mayor White, whose campaign dipped sharply when he was forced into the hospital for an emergency operation, came back with a vengeance and turned a debate over whether or not he and the Governor would debate into a major issue to pick up flagging interest in the race.



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RUNNING HARD: Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, getting a warm reception at a Columbus Day parade in Springfield. He wants a landslide victory.