

Ted Reported Confining Aims To U.S. Senate

HYANNIS PORT, Mass. (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy is confining his political ambitions to the U.S. Senate—not the presidency—as he awaits what is shaping up as a vote of confidence by the people of Massachusetts, sources close to him say.

For the moment, these sources say, Kennedy has put out of his mind any ambitions he might have harbored for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination.

As he remains in seclusion here, inundated by thousands of telegrams in response to Friday night's dramatic television-radio appeal, Kennedy is described by those who have seen him as irritated over press speculation about what the death of Mary Jo Kopechne and his actions following it mean to his presidential prospects.

THESE REPORTS of Kennedy's mood are lent credibility by an interview last May in which he expressed serious doubts about whether to seek the presidency in 1972 or ever.

The senator pleaded guilty last Friday to a charge of leaving the scene of a fatal accident and received a suspended two-month sentence. He did not report the accident until more than nine hours after his car plunged off a bridge and Miss Kopechne drowned.

Friday evening, in a telecast and broadcast addressed to the people of Massachusetts, Sen. Kennedy said, "I regard as indefensible the fact that I did not report the accident to the police immediately."

HE EXPLAINED, "I was overcome—I am frank to say, by a jumble of emotion—grief, fear, doubt, torture, panic, confusion, exhaustion and shock."

He asked his constituents to express their opinions, saying he would consider resigning from the Senate unless they convinced him he should stay in office.

So far the response of Massachusetts residents is reported to be overwhelmingly in favor of his continuing as senator.

ABOUT 15 or 20 demonstrators carrying signs saying: "Can you buy justice?" and "Tell the truth Ted" staged a parade near his home yesterday and were pelted with eggs and firecrackers by a group of youngsters.

Police said the group sympathetic to Kennedy shouted obscenities at the demonstrators and yelled, "Go back where you came from" and "Get out of here, you bums."

In a state where the Kennedy name is political magic, which re-elected him by a margin of 1.2 million votes in 1964, and in which no Republican opponent has yet surfaced for 1970, the telegrams stacked in the living room of his Squaw Island summer home have encouraged him.

BUT THERE was no word yet on when and how he would announce his decision—or even whether he would announce it at all. It was considered possible that simply by returning to Washington and casting a Senate vote on a key issue—such as the controversial Safeguard anti-missile deployment — he would signal his intent to stay on.

Yesterday, Kennedy made his first public appearance since the nationwide broadcast. With his wife, Joan, and a friend, he attended Mass in Hyannis. He was greeted by about 200 persons outside St. Francis Xavier Church as he appeared under the gray, threatening skies that have plagued Cape Cod since he arrived July 18 for the fateful weekend.

SOME shouted, "We're with you" and "Don't give up, senator" as he moved toward his car after the Mass. He nodded slightly in acknowledgement but

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kept his eyes downcast as the car pulled away.

Joan Kennedy, expecting her fourth child next February, was driving. Her husband's license has been revoked for one year because of the accident in which his car left a bridge July 18 and overturned in the tidal waters of Chappaquiddick Island, drowning Miss Kopechne.