

Differing Reactions To Ted

Examiner News Services

BOSTON — The Boston Herald Traveler said today the vast majority of letters received by the paper say Sen. Edward M. Kennedy should resign from the U.S. Senate.

The paper said phone calls after Kennedy's TV appearance last Friday, in which he commented on the auto accident which took the life of a young woman passenger, were 2½ to 1 in favor of his remaining in the Senate.

He had asked the advice of Massachusetts residents in determining whether he should resign.

103 to 14

The Herald Traveler said that as of yesterday, 14 letters favored Kennedy remaining in the Senate and 103 were opposed.

Thirty of those opposed and five of the 14 in favor were from out of the state.

The first returns from a poll conducted by the Providence, R.I., Journal-Bulletin showed 73 percent of persons returning paper ballots from the paper's Sunday editions favored Kennedy's remaining in the Senate.

The vote was 1541-583.

A total of 69 percent of those replying said they would vote for Kennedy for president in 1972.

Girl's Parents

Mary Jo Kopechne, a Washington, D.C., secretary, drowned July 18 after Kennedy's car plunged off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island.

Her parents were quoted today as saying they do not hold Kennedy responsible for her death.

"It was an unfortunate accident," said Mrs. Joseph Kopechne, at their home in Berkeley Heights, N.J. and reported in a copyright story in the Boston Globe.

"We want to believe this. If the Kennedy name were not

in some way put into this — we are going on in the same way as if it was someone else. This could have happened to any one of those girls," she said.

If Kennedy has decided to keep his Senate seat, it may be some time before he communicates his decision to the public.

Don't Write Off Ted Yet -- Muskie

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, often pointed to as a potential Democratic presidential contender in 1972, says it would be premature to discount Edward M. Kennedy's political future.

"I would never count a Kennedy out of anything," said the Maine Democrat, whose 1968 vice presidential campaign made him a possible future White House contender.

"I wouldn't operate on the assumption that Ted Kennedy's troubles would be of any political advantage to me," Muskie said of the accident in which a girl riding in Kennedy's car was killed.

"I wish him well in every way," Muskie said. "If his political posture has not been weakened, I would be delighted."

Until the accident a

week-and-a-half ago, Kennedy was thought the front runner for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination. But the incident, particularly Kennedy's failure to report the accident to police for more than eight hours, caused speculation that his chances have been greatly reduced.

Muskie acknowledged he had felt after a recently completed six months of transcontinental speaking that Kennedy could have the 1972 nomination for the asking.

He said the accident controversy may have brought about "an unfortunate shift in his fortunes" but it would be premature to make any such judgment now.

Kennedy has not appeared in the Senate since July 18 when Miss Mary Jo Kopechne drowned after a car the senator was driving plunged off a bridge.