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Kennedy Case Autopsy to Be Sought

New Bedford, Mass.

District Attorney Edmund Dinis said yesterday he will move in the Pennsylvania courts this week for an autopsy on Mary Jo Kopechne.

"I see no reason why it should be denied," he said.

Dinis said he hoped to win a court order directing Pennsylvania officials to exhume Miss Kopechne's body, and conduct the autopsy, perhaps with the assistance of "three eminent Massachusetts pathologists."

Declaring that "time is of the essence," Dinis's petition will request swift action in view of the inquest into her death, scheduled for September 3.

Miss Kopechne, 28, died the weekend of July 18. She was found in a car driven by Senator Edward M. Kennedy which plunged into a tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island. She was buried in Plymouth, Pa.

Times-Post Service

Exhumation Sought In Kennedy Case

NEW BEDFORD (Mass.) — (AP) — District Attorney Edmund Dinis says he will ask this week for exhumation of the body of Mary Jo Kopechne so that an autopsy can be performed.

Dinis' request to authorities in Pennsylvania, where Miss Kopechne is buried, will require a court ruling.

Miss Kopechne, 28, drowned July 18 when a car driven by Sen. Edward Kennedy went off a bridge and plunged into a tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island off Martha's Vinyard.

Kennedy, who did not report the accident until several hours after it happened,

pleaded guilty to a charge of leaving the scene of an accident and received a suspended two-month jail sentence.

Dinis later ordered an inquest into Miss Kopechne's death.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopechne, the dead girl's parents, have been strongly opposed to exhumation of her body.

Dinis said yesterday he has not spoken with the couple about the inquest and possible autopsy.

"Oh no, I wouldn't do that," he said. "I wouldn't want to bother them. They have enough trouble."

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