

Mary Jo Autopsy Opposed

EDGARTOWN (Mass.) — (AP) — The Dukes County medical examiner, who with District Attorney Edmund Dinis had urged the exhumation of the body of Mary Jo Kopechne, has withdrawn his support of the court petition filed in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"The sands of time have shifted," Dr. Robert W. Nevin said last night. "and the relative value of forces have shifted. An autopsy could have provided a completeness which can never be determined without it . . ."

An associate of Nevin, Dr. Donald Mills, ruled that Miss Kopechne drowned when a car, driven by Sen. Edward Kennedy, went off a narrow bridge into a tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island. No autopsy was performed.

"I felt that an autopsy would have been of value," Nevin said, "but I also feel that as time goes on the relative value of things to be gained have diminished."

"Therefore, I am withdrawing my support."

The petition for the autopsy is still before Judge Bernard C. Brominski in Common Pleas Court of Luzerne County, Pa.