

KENNEDY-CASE DELAY OF 2-6 WEEKS SEEN

BOSTON, Sept. 11 (AP) — It will be at least two weeks and perhaps six before the Massachusetts Supreme Court hears arguments on the constitutional questions that have blocked the inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, court sources said today.

The sources said that several Supreme Court justices were on vacation and not expected back for at least a week or two. The court is now in summer recess, and its next regular session does not begin until Oct. 6.

Even then, the sources said, there are 56 other cases ahead of the inquest matter.

"I doubt very much whether there'll be any shuffling," one source reported. Thus, it could even be later than October before the case is heard. And it is quite likely that after receiving the argument, the high court will take the questions under advisement for a few weeks before issuing its decision.

Miss Kopechne, 28-year-old secretary from Washington, died the night of July 18 when Senator Edward M. Kennedy's car plunged off a bridge and into a tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island, off the Massachusetts coast.

The constitutional questions have been raised by attorneys for Mr. Kennedy, who contend that the inquest will be of an "accusatory nature," similar to a trial, and who therefore want such privileges as cross-examination.

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