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Kennedy's Pledge on Candidacy

Senator Edward M. Kennedy said last night he will answer all questions concerning the Chappaquidick incident if he becomes a candidate for president in 1976.

The Massachusetts Democrat, who has said he will announce before the end of the year his decision on whether to seek the presidency, told a news conference he would "respond to questions and do the best I could" about the controversy surrounding the accident in July 1969 in which Mary Jo Kopechne drowned when a car driven by Kennedy plunged off a ridge into deep water off Chappaquidick Island.

"I have indicated it was a very deep personal tragedy. I have accepted full responsibility for it and full regret for the incident," Kennedy said. "I would respond to any of the questions."

Kennedy was here to address a \$100-a-plate Democratic fundraising dinner.

Associated Press
