

**KENNEDY CRITICIZED
FOR ATTACK ON NIXON**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (UPI)—Republicans struck back today at Senator Edward M. Kennedy for his attack yesterday on President Nixon and his record.

The House minority leader, Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, noted Senator Kennedy's charge last night that the American people no longer trusted their President and said that, "of all the issues which the Senior Senator from Massachusetts might raise among the American people, the question of trust seems least likely to serve his interests."

Asked to explain the reference, Paul Miltich, Mr. Ford's press secretary said: "It's obvious. It's an oblique reference to Chappaquidick." Although Mr. Kennedy was criticized shortly after the drowning of Mary Jo Kopechne at Chappaquidick in 1969, Mr. Ford's reference was one of the few instances since then when it was used in an attack on the Senator.

The Senate minority leader, Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, accused Mr. Kennedy of being a "point man" interested in the 1976 Presidential nomination, and said he owed the President an apology.

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, the Republican National Chairman, called Mr. Kennedy's denunciation of the Administration "the usual cacophony of mindless negativism about our country."