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# Kennedy Resumes Senate Duties

## He Spends Most of Day at Hearing on Post for Fortas

By ROY REED

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10— Senator Edward M. Kennedy returned to his duties in the Senate today for the first time since his brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was fatally shot June 5.

The Senate was not in session, and he spent most of the day at a closed meeting of the Judiciary Committee. The committee is considering the confirmation of Associate Justice Abe Fortas of the Supreme Court as Chief Justice of the United States, which Mr. Kennedy favors.

His return was quiet.

Mr. Kennedy stopped briefly in his office on the fourth floor of the Old Senate Office Building, then walked through the corridor under First Street to the New Senate Office Building for the committee hearing.

He stepped off a freight elevator on the second floor and walked quickly to the door of the hearing room, 15 feet down the hall. He did not stop or look up, nor did he speak to a cluster of newsmen standing in the hall.

### 'Wants to Get Back'

An aide who has been with him in recent days said he was in "fine shape."

"He's back at work," the aide said. "He's interested in the issues and he wants to get back."

Mr. Kennedy spent most of the summer with his family at Hyannis Port, Mass. He visited his office here only occasionally and for brief periods.

On his first trip back, one day in mid-July, he did not leave his automobile. When the driver pulled to the curb outside the Old Senate Office Building, Mr. Kennedy hesitated, then told a staff mem-



Ron Nelson for the New York Times

Senator Edward M. Kennedy checking his briefcase after arriving in Washington yesterday to resume his duties.

ber, "I just can't go in there and face them."

The car pulled away and he returned to Hyannis Port.

He has appeared in public several times in recent weeks. Yesterday, he was in Massachusetts campaigning for the re-election of Representative Edward P. Boland, an old friend who campaigned for him after his back was broken in a plane crash in 1962.

A spokesman in the Senator's office said that he had made no plans for campaigning for other Democrats, including the Presidential ticket.

He said that Mr. Kennedy would not rule out "occasional appearances" for Vice President Humphrey and Senator Edmund S. Muskie but had not decided what to do.

He said the Senator had received no requests for campaign help.

Mr. Kennedy said yesterday in Springfield, Mass., that Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Muskie were "best equipped to handle the problems facing the nation," but he gave no indication of how actively he would support the ticket.