

Hundreds of Messages Are Sent To Police Chief in Kennedy Case

By JOSEPH LELYVELD
Special to The New York Times

EDGARTOWN, Mass., July 22

—Police Chief Dominick J. Arena has received stacks of telegrams and a steady stream of telephone calls concerning his investigation of the automobile accident last weekend in which Senator Edward M. Kennedy suffered minor injuries and a 28-year-old secretary was killed.

The messages either congratulated the chief for the decision to prosecute the Senator on a charge of leaving the scene of the accident, or criticized him for not making the charge more serious.

Although he reported some bitter hostility, like that of a man from Alabama who suggested that the law did not apply to the Kennedys in Massachusetts, the chief said he had been under no pressure from the family.

Chief Arena filed the citation yesterday against Senator Kennedy, who was driving the car in which Mary Jo Kopechne, the secretary, died.

Mr. Arena, who five days ago was a smalltown police official concerned chiefly with organizing summer recreation programs, described the sheaves of telegrams at two press briefings held today for the many newsmen camping out here.

Between briefings today, Chief Arena went to the intersection on Chappaquiddick Island where the Senator says he made a wrong turn Friday night down a dirt road leading to the wooden bridge, from which his black Oldsmobile plunged into a shallow pond.

When He Returned

The chief was accompanied by Christopher Look Jr., a Dukes County deputy sheriff and the owner of an oil business in Edgartown. Mr. Look believes he saw the Senator's car hesitate at the intersection before taking the fateful turn. Mr. Look says that was after 12.40 A.M. Saturday, more than an hour later than the time given by Mr. Kennedy.

Meantime, sources close to the Kennedy family gave the first indications of what happened when the Senator returned dripping wet to the cottage where his friends had been holding a party, more than a mile from the scene of the accident.

They said he collapsed in the back seat of a car parked out front and that his first words were, "Get me Markham."

Paul Markham, who had sailed with the Senator that afternoon on the yacht Victura, is a former United States Attorney for New England. He was one of six men at the party. Six women also attended it.

Senator Kennedy told the police in a statement Saturday morning that he was in a state of shock from the time of the accident until he woke up in Edgartown in the morning.

But the sources said he was

able to give his friends an account of what happened. He told them he could remember thinking: "I'm drowning. This is incredible."

They also quoted him as saying, as he said later in his statement, that he had no idea how he got out of the submerged car.

Sailing Companion There

Sources close to the Kennedys also said that Edward Martin, one of those registered at the Edgartown Yacht Club as a member of the Senator's crew, never did make the trip to Martha's Vineyard last weekend for the annual regatta. They said the sixth man at the party on Chappaquiddick was Ray La-Rosa, a frequent sailing companion of the Senator's.

The sources said Mr. Kennedy had been looking drawn and despondent since his return to Hyannis Port Saturday.

After going to Pennsylvania for Miss Kopechne's funeral, he flew back to Hyannis Port this afternoon. Asked by reporters for a statement, he said: "I have just returned from a funeral. I will have a statement at an appropriate time."

Asked again, he flared and retorted: "I have just been to the funeral of a very lovely girl. I have no more to say."

Yesterday, Duke's County Medical Examiner, Donald R. Mills, said a test of a sample of Miss Kopechne's blood made at the State Police Laboratory in Boston showed "a very moderate, very slight" level of alcohol. He also said that he had not ordered an inquest because he was absolutely certain that the cause of her death was drowning.

SEE NYTIMES
22 JUL