

Kennedy Greeted on Return to Senate

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. Edward Kennedy declared today he definitely would not seek the presidency in 1972.

He said he was inclined not to make the race even before an automobile accident clouded his political career nearly two weeks ago.

"The events of the recent past make definite what already was an inclination of

mine," Kennedy told reporters on his return to Capitol Hill. He walked through a swarm of newsmen and tourists who had gathered there as he arrived.

In a brief corridor news conference, the first since the accident, Kennedy said he would have no more comment — now or ever — on the tragedy in which a young woman was killed when the

car he was driving plunged off a bridge.

"I've tried to the best of my ability in the reports I made to give the facts of the incident," Kennedy said. "I wouldn't have any further comment."

He was warmly welcomed back to the Senate by Democratic leader Mike Mansfield and given handshakes by Republican whip Hugh Scott

and other senators.

Kennedy stood by Mansfield at the usual pre-session briefing with newsmen and after the Senate convened shortly after 11 a.m., his first words from the floor were:

"Mr. President, I move the journal of the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as read."

Only a half-dozen senators

—Turn to Page 9, Col. 5

Inquest Plea In Kopechne Girl's Death

NEW BEDFORD (Mass.)

— (UPI) — District Attorney Edmund Dinis today asked for an inquest in the death of Mary Jo Kopechne in the auto accident involving Sen. Edward N. Kennedy — a case other authorities had insisted was closed.

Dinis made the request in a letter to G. Joseph Taubo, chief justice of the Superior Court.

Dinis was known to have been upset about press criticism of the case, particularly the failure to conduct an autopsy.

Dr. Donald R. Mills, associate medical examiner on Martha's Vineyard, gave a verdict of death by accidental drowning. A blood test showed Miss Kopechne had an alcohol level consistent with two cocktails.

Ted Greeted on Return to Senate

—From Page 1

were in the chamber as the session opened. Kennedy, who is the Democratic whip, took his seat to the left of Mansfield and thumbed through the Congressional Record. Sens. Herman Tamadge (D-Ga.), and John Stennis (D-Miss.), walked over to shake his hand.

As Kennedy, looking tanned and calm, arrived at the Capitol and walked up the steps leading to the Senate, a reporter asked if he was pleased to be resuming his Senate duties.

He replied, "Fine. Glad to be back at work."

Before returning, he issued a statement saying he had decided not to resign his seat, and in fact plans to seek another term in 1970. If elected, he said, he will serve

the full six years of that term.

In the aftermath of controversy surrounding the accident, Kennedy asked the voters of his state to help him make up his mind about his future. The thousands of responses were overwhelmingly "yes."

Kennedy, his driver's license suspended, returned to his home last night as a passenger.

He was driven down from Plainfield, N.J., where he attended funeral services for a close friend.

Muskie's View

Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, a potential Democratic presidential candidate for 1972, said in Chicago, "I am delighted that he has decided to stay. I must say I am not surprised and I would expect the people of Massachusetts to re-elect him."

5 ☆



Tourists swarmed around Senator Kennedy when he returned to the Capitol today

—UPI Photo