

Kennedy Won't Run In 1972

New York Times

Washington

Senator Edward M. Kennedy resumed his Senate duties yesterday and confirmed that he will not run for President in 1972.

He also made it clear that he would not discuss further the details of the July 18 automobile accident that clouded his career.

"I tried to the very best of my ability, in the reports that have been made, to give the facts of the incident," he said in a brief encounter with newsmen outside the Senate chamber. "I wouldn't have any further comment."

The newsmen fired questions as they trotted behind him up the steps to the Senate. They wanted to know whether his statement Wednesday meant what it seemed to mean — that he

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would not run for President in 1972.

"That's right," Kennedy replied, striding rapidly on toward the Senate chamber. "I intend to fill out my Senate term if re-elected."

Meanwhile in New Bedford, Mass., District Attorney Edmund Dinis asked for an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, who drowned when the senator's car plunged into a tidal pool July 18.

Dinis made the request of a Superior Court judge. Normally such requests are made to district court judges. There was no explanation for this move nor of why Dinis is seeking the inquest.

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

As the day proceeded in Washington, Kennedy was asked at least twice more to

confirm that he really has no intention of seeking the Presidency in 1972. He replied emphatically each time that he would not run.

Once, he indicated that he had not been inclined to run even before the death of Miss Kopechne, a 28-year-old Washington secretary.

The senate welcomed its Assistant Majority Leader back in the quiet, personal way that might have been expected from that institution.

It took no official note of his return, as it had taken none of his absence. But all through the day, Democrats and Republicans dropped by his desk at the front of the chamber, shook his hand and spoke brief words of welcome.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, the Maine Democrat who now seems to be a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972, spent several minutes in earnest and apparently friendly conversation with him.

Red Paper's Comment On Kennedy

Moscow

A Soviet newspaper said yesterday that Senator Edward M. Kennedy has become the target of a "persecution campaign" aimed at hurting the liberal cause in the United States.

"The catastrophe happened at a most convenient moment for the most desperate circles of the United States who have close ties with the military-industrial complex," Komsomolskaya Pravda said in referring to an automobile accident involving the senator.

"The ruling circles in the United States, always hostile to the Kennedy family, understand what a danger a liberal candidate such as Edward would pose for them," the paper's deputy foreign editor, Vladimir Bolshakov, wrote.

"Such things are not new in the United States. It is possible to cover up bribery scandals there if the senator involved has made himself famous by his dull-witted anti-Communism, as in the case of Thomas Dodd."

Associated Press