

PROSECUTOR CALLS KENNEDY INQUEST

Chief Doubts Ted Details

BOSTON — District Attorney Edmund Dinis said today he will hold an inquest into Sen. Edward Kennedy's July 18 auto accident.

Meanwhile, Edgartown police chief Dominic Arena was quoted today as saying he does not believe all of the account given by Sen. Kennedy concerning the accident and the death of Mary Jo Kopechne.

Arena told the Hartford Courant he believes Kennedy's car plunged into a tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island about 12:50 the morning of July 19, not at about 11:15 the previous night as the Senator said.

The time difference is considered important, since Kennedy said he left a party on the island with the girl to catch a ferry. The last ferry leaves the island for Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard at midnight.

State Law

Arena said he believes the statement by Dukes County deputy chief Christopher Look Jr., who said he saw Kennedy's black Oldsmobile turn off the island's only paved road onto Dyke Road about 12:50.

A spokesman for District Attorney Dinis indicated he would act under a state law which gives him the power to "require" an inquest.

Dinis had sought the inquest in a letter sent to Edgartown District Court Judge James A. Boyle last week.

Boyle replied today that the letter was "unclear." He asked Dinis to declare flatly whether he was requiring an inquest or simply asking for one.

Dinis met with newsmen here and said he will call "all witnesses" who have anything to contribute. He did not specify, however,



EDMUND DINIS
Inquest in Kopechne death

Kennedy Inquest Set, DA Asserts

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whether Kennedy would be among them.

Dinis also said he planned to meet with Boyle shortly to set a date for the inquest and establish ground rules.

Asked when he expected the inquest to be, Dinis would say only: "soon."

The inquest will deal specifically with the death of Miss Kopechne, the 28-year-old secretary from Washington, D.C., who was a passenger in Kennedy's car.

Dinis earlier had sought permission for the inquest from Judge G. Edward Tauro, chief justice of the state's Superior Court system, and from Judge Edward Nash, chief justice of the state's District Court system. Both turned him down.

Tauro said he District Court had jurisdiction, rather than Superior Court. And Nash said the matter should be handled by the presiding District Court judge in the area involved.

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