

15 Witnesses

Inquest Date Set In Kennedy Case

Edgartown, Mass.

An inquest in the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, who was killed in an automobile accident involving Senator Edward M. Kennedy, was set yesterday for September 3.

Judge James A. Boyle of the Edgartown district court, who imposed a suspended sentence after the Senator pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident, said he would preside over the inquest.

The date was set after Judge Boyle conferred for about three-quarters of an hour with District Attorney Edmund Dinis, who requested the inquest under provisions of Massachusetts law.

Judge Boyle said that he would allow accredited members of news media to attend the inquest. All others not officially required to attend will be excluded, he said.

Dinis said he expects to call about 15 witnesses. He said he has "no intention of calling Senator Kennedy at this time."

As for an autopsy on the body of Miss Kopechne Dinis said he would file a petition with the court here. But the responsibility of granting an autopsy, he said, rests with Pennsylvania authorities.

Miss Kopechne, 28, a former secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York, was with Edward Kennedy on the night of July 18, when a car he was driving plunged off a narrow bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, near here, and plunged into a salt pond. She is buried in Larksville, Pa.

New York Times



AP Wirephoto

JOSEPH GARGAN
Kennedy's cousin

Kennedy Try To Shift Blame Denied

New York

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) denied yesterday a columnist's claim that he asked his cousin, Joseph Gargan, to take the blame for driving the car in which a young secretary died.

Kennedy was asked about the copyright column by Jack Anderson in a TV interview.

"I wouldn't make any comment other than it's untrue," Kennedy said. "It's false."

Anderson said Kennedy originally wanted Gargan to admit driving the car which went off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island. A Washington secretary, Mary Jo Kopechne, drowned in the accident. Later Anderson said, Kennedy changed his mind and went to police.

Gargan has said there is "no truth" to Anderson's story.

Associated Press

70 OR MORE
(S.F. Ex 8 AUG)