

Kennedy Case DA Guarded

Special to The Examiner

EDGARTOWN (Mass.)

—A state trooper has been assigned as a personal guard for District Attorney Edmund Dinis, the official in the Ted Kennedy investigation, because of several threats against his life, it was disclosed Tuesday.

The policeman was assigned by Major John Moriarity after state police headquarters detectives satisfied themselves threats to kill Dinis were real rather than the work of cranks.

The plainclothes guard has been at Dinis' side for the past few days, accompanying him to Pennsylvania for a court hearing earlier this week.

The Boston Record American learned that after several letters were received warning Dinis his life was in jeopardy because of his work in the Kennedy case they prevailed on him to turn the notes over to the state police. Dinis agreed to do so although he apparently did not take the threats as seriously as did his staff.

However, after Capt. Daniel I. Murphy, head of the state police detective bureau, and several other investigators and technicians examined the letters the police guard was ordered.

Despite threats he continued preparations for the inquest scheduled for Sept. 3 here into the accident which killed Mary Jo Kopechne and cast into serious doubt the political future of Sen. Edward Kennedy. A decision is pending on exhumation of her body.

Kopechne Autopsy Court Ruling Due

WILKES-BARRE (Pa.) — (UPI) — A judge may rule tomorrow on whether the body of Mary Jo Kopechne can be exhumed for an autopsy designed to help end any "doubt and suspicion" surrounding her death in an auto driven by Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Judge Bernard Brominski took under advisement yesterday a request by Miss Kopechne's parents to deny the request for an exhumation by Massachusetts District Attorney Edmund Dinis. He said it would be at least 48 hours before he rules on the request.

Mother Ailing

The 28 year old blonde died July 18 when the auto which Kennedy was driving

plunged into a tidal pool. The cause of death was listed as drowning.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopechne of Berkeley Heights, N.J., the girl's parents, did not attend yesterday's hearing because Mrs. Kopechne was ill.

Dinis has asked District Court Judge James Boyle in Edgartown, Mass., for an inquest. In his petition Dinis said an autopsy is necessary "in order that circumstances of the death be clearly established and the doubt and suspicion surrounding the death be resolved."

Attorney Joseph Flanagan, representing the Kopechnes, argued that Dinis should have made his request for an autopsy before the body was removed from his state.

'Failed to Act'

"It cannot be doubted the district attorney had the opportunity to inject himself into the proceedings and he lost his chance by delay," Flanagan said. "Failure to act in time gives them no right to come here asking for an autopsy."

"The law holds that before you can exhume a body you must establish clearly that good cause exists."

He said Dinis' petition is "totally lacking in any facts. Rather, there are doubts and suspicions that some people might have, but this never can be used as a basis for exhumation and autopsy."

Dinis said he expects to call 15 witnesses to testify at the inquest Sept. 3 but Kennedy will not be one of them.

Flanagan said the action in the court here was an illegal attack on rulings by Massachusetts authorities, including Dr. Donald R. Mills, the associate medical examiner who ruled death by accidental drowning.

He contended that Massachusetts must show Mills acted in bad faith or produced evidence of negligence or malfeasance on his part.