

Parents Still Veto Mary Jo Autopsy

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Mary Jo Kopechne's parents, reported "unimpressed" by allegations that blood was present when her body was recovered from Senator Edward M. Kennedy's car, are going to press their legal fight against any autopsy, their lawyer said yesterday.

"Because there is no proof of foul play or criminal conduct — especially those elements — the parents don't want her body disturbed," said attorney Joseph Flanagan, who represents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopechne of

Berkeley Heights, N.J.

"We haven't decided how we shall proceed but we are going to challenge the amended petition all the way," he said.

District Attorney Edmund Dinis, who first petitioned for an autopsy five weeks ago to assist his case at an inquest he has scheduled into the death last July 18, said his investigators learned there was blood in Mary Jo's nose and mouth and perhaps on her clothing when she was found. She was buried in Larksville, Pa., near her birthplace.

Flanagan, however, said the Kopechnes "don't feel Dinis has come up with anything indicating foul play, criminal conduct on the part of anyone, or a different verdict of death."

The Kopechnes, in battling exhumation, have won several court delays, demanding proof that an autopsy would show that some crime had been committed. Bernard C. Brominski set a hearing on September 29 on Dinis' amended request.