Ted Won't Politick In Person

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has decided he will not make public political appearances while court action continues in the aftermath of the fatal automobile accident which altered his life.

That self-imposed moratorium has kept him from direct participation in a special congressional election in Massachusetts — which has drawn a parade of big-name Democrats.

"For now, the senator is not making any political appearances himself," said Richard C. Drayne, Kennedy's press secretary.

That decision could be altered if court proceedings continue over an extended period.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court is to hear arguments Oct. 8 on the contested rules for an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, the secretary who drowned July 18 after Kennedy's automobile plunged from a narrow bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, Mass.

The Massachusetts Congressional contest, matching Democratic state Rep. Michael Harrington and Republican state Sen. William Saltonstall, is next Tuesday.

Kennedy has taped radio statements urging support of Harrington; on Saturday, the Democratic candidate's organization finally decided to use them during the last three days of the campaign.

The Massachusetts senator also held a fund-raising reception for Harrington at his home in Boston on Sept. 18.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and Sen. George S. McGovern of South Dakota have gone to the Sixth Congressional District to campaign for Harrington.

Sen. Fred R. Harris of Oklahoma, the Democratic national chairman, plans an appearance there before the Tuesday election; Hubert H. Humphrey is due in the district Monday.

The district of 30 cities and towns north of Boston never has elected a Democratic Congressman.