

# Insurer Paid \$140,923 To Kopechnes

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Oct. 30 (AP)—The parents of Mary Jo Kopechne received \$140,923 from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's auto insurance after her death in the senator's car in 1969, the Kopechnes' lawyer said today.

The settlement "was strictly with the insurance carrier, the General Accident Group of Philadelphia," attorney Joseph Flanagan said in a telephone interview. He said the Massachusetts Democrat made no payment out of his own pocket to the Kopechnes.

Flanagan said the Kopechnes decided to release the insurance figure to end speculation. Some reports published in connection with the fifth anniversary of Miss Kopechne's death had placed the payment as high as \$500,000, he said.

Flanagan said the insurance payment was based on an actuarial estimate of Miss Kopechne's lifetime earnings potential and did not include any allowance for pain and suffering Miss Kopechne might have undergone when the senator's car plunged off a bridge at Chappaquiddick, Mass.

Miss Kopechne's mother, Gwen Kopechne, said in Swiftwater, Pa., she had no comment on the insurance payment: "Our lawyer in Wilkes-Barre is handling everything." Miss Kopechne's father, Joseph Kopechne, was not available for comment.

Joseph McNamara, vice president of the General Accident Group, said in Philadelphia he would neither confirm nor deny the figure: "It is company policy to consider this privileged information."