

JOSEPH KENNEDY CLINGING TO LIFE

Family Is at Hyannis Port After New Heart Attack

HYANNIS PORT, Mass., Nov. 17 (AP)—Joseph Patrick Kennedy clung to a slender thread of life today as members of his family gathered at the seaside compound that is the clan's headquarters.

Mr. Kennedy, 81 years old, who has seen three sons elected to the United States Senate and one to the Presidency, was reported unconscious after suffering another heart attack.

"The end is only a matter of hours away," said Sargent Shriver, his son-in-law who is Ambassador to France.

Dr. Robert D. Watt of Hyannis, the family physician, has been at the compound a large part of the time since Mr. Kennedy was stricken Saturday. A family source said Mr. Kennedy received the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church on Saturday.

Mr. Kennedy, former Ambassador to Britain who is one of the nation's wealthiest men, has been an invalid since he suffered a stroke at Palm Beach, Fla., in 1961. During these years he has had several heart attacks and his health in the last few months has been fading.

4 Children There

Three of the Kennedys' four daughters and their only surviving son, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, were at the compound, where they were joined today by Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, widow of Robert, the New York Senator who was assassinated.

The widow of the President, Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, flew by commercial jet from London to Boston, then by a chartered plane to Hyannis Port.

Mrs. Joan Kennedy, wife of Edward, also was here with two of their three children, Kara and Edward Jr.

A family spokesman said members of the family were taking informal turns sitting at the bedside of their father. Sharing in this with Senator Kennedy were Eunice, wife of Mr. Shriver; Mrs. Jean Smith and Mrs. Patricia Kennedy Lawford.

About noon today, in crisp weather, Senator Kennedy took his two children out for a short sail on Vineyard Sound in Victoria, the family's 24-foot racing sloop.