The dark shadow of Chap-Quidick continues to haunt Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. The parents of Mary Jo Kopechne say they are so grossly upset over their son's death, that they cannot accept Kennedy's version of their daughter's death. Kennedy, who recently has come under fire for his handling of a shapely blonde, identified as Page Lee Hoffy, contends the death of Kopechne was accidental. However, several eyewitnesses to events surrounding her death say Kennedy's story cannot be supported by the facts.

Black U.S. Representatives, who denied the white Rep. William Douglas (Dem., Calif.), have drawn the attention of white conservatives. The white critics contend liberals apply a "double standard" to racial issues in the country. "If white Congressmen had denied a Black Congressman membership in a White Caucus, the White Caucus, the liberal media would have branded them as 'niggers and Kra- cists,'" one critic complained; "middle-class whites," he continued, "are beginning to see the national media's racial bias. For just what it is--a huge propaganda machine of the liberal elite!"

Wallace supporters say that "get tough with criminals" speeches such as that recently delivered by President Ford, are "too little, too late." They also charge that Wallace is ready to start cracking down on criminals--but why did it take them so long?" a Mid­West Wallace supporter asked rhetorically.

The leading left-wing lib­eral Justice, William O. Douglas, on the U.S. Supreme Court, eventually be­come forced to resign," according to a Los Angeles Times report carried nationwide on June 15.

Supreme Court justices are worried that Justice Douglas, who suffered a stroke more than five years ago, can no longer perform his duties properly, and there are ques­tions about his mental condi­tion, according to the Times report.

"One justice told the Times that some members of the court were growing uneasy about Douglas voting in cases he had never heard argued," the newspaper said.

"They suspect that he may not be any time of the lin­erations to read all the peti­tions, briefs and opinions presented to him and is in­stead delegating many of his responsibilities to clerks and assistants, violating a Supreme Court principle, the Times said.

Douglas, 76 years old, suf­fered a stroke Dec. 31, 1974, that immobilized the entire left side of his body, and he still cannot walk. There are indica­tions that Douglas probably will never recover completely from the stroke, the Times said. In addition, Douglas has a heart pacemaker, which is "getting pretty old," and may have to be replaced.

"During Douglas's absence, his secretaries and clerks fly to New York several times a week to bring his court do­cuments to read while he re­mains in the Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine of New York University. Because of his declining therapy sched­ule, Douglas has little time to read drafts or to confer with his colleagues, the Times said. Justice William J. Bren­nan Jr. goes to New York to get Douglas's opinions to re­lay to the rest of the court.

Douglas's five month ab­ence has clearly upset the work of the court this term, slow­ing down the production of opinions and snarling the court's usual efficient daily operations, the Times said. The court has been unable to release many cases, because every opinion must be approved by all the justices who sup­port it. Within the court, the word is that Douglas has not been able to pass his share of opinion writing, thus adding to the burden on each of the other justices. That would partially explain the court's current backlog, accord­ing to the report.

Douglas's contributions have been both infrequent and brief. Two paragraphs of dis­sent are all that the majority page of one opinion noted only that "Mr. Justice Douglas dis­agrees with the reasoning why. For two months this spring, between late March and late May, he did nothing. The Times article said.

The President's allies have good-naturedly tolerated the "reputational inconvenience caused by his absence, out of friendship and respect for Douglas, but the good humor is said to be on the wane," the newspaper said.

Racial Job Quotas Ordered for St. Louis Fire Fighters

United States District Judge John F. Nangle of St. Louis, Mo., on June 16 ordered the City of St. Louis to hire black firemen on a one for one basis in the court's order and have black firefighters replace the white firemen in the City's fire force.

The order is the result of a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Dept. of Justice against the City's Fire Department on March 18, 1975. This lawsuit de­manded that the City hire three blacks for each white until the "racial balance" of the department approximates that of the city.