The dark shadow of Chap-paquiddick continues to haunt Sen. Edward M. Ken-ney. The parents of Mary Jo Kopechne say they are so sure that he can accept Kennedy's version of their daughter's death. Kennedy, who recently has been observed in the steady company of a shapely blonde, identified as Page Lee Hofty, contends the death of Miss Kopechne was accidental. However, sev­eral eye witnesses to events surrounding her death say Kennedy's story cannot be supported by the facts.

Black U.S. Representa­tives, who denied membership in a 'White Caucus,' have drawn the attention of white con­troversives. The white critics contend liberals apply a "double standard" to racial issues in the country.

"If white Congressmen have denied a Black Congressman membership in a 'White Caucus,'" said an anonymous white critic, "the liberal media would have branded them as 'bigots' and 'ra­acists,'" one critic com­plained. "Middle-class whites," he continued, "are beginning to see the national media as a 'port­able elite.'"

The leading left-wing lib­eral justice, William O. Douglas, on the U.S. Supreme Court, has reportedly been forced to resign," according to a Los Angeles Times report carried nationwide on June 15. Douglas and his colleagues are worried that Justice Douglas, who suffered a stroke more than five months 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 have either the time or the stamina 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 fundamental 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, Doul­lus 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 demanding 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 set Douglas's opinions to re­lax to the rest of the court.

Douglas's five month ab­sence has clearly upset the work of the court this term, slow­ing the production of opinions and snarling the court's usual efficient daily operations, the Times said.

"There have been 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 even been able to write 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 dis­agreement on two pages are the gather­ings of the whole year. In the Times article, Douglas is described as "waltzing," "wandering," "wandering," and "wandering." For two months this spring, between late March and late May, nothing, the Times article said.

The times are growing apprehensive about the 'court's usual efficient daily operations,' the Times 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 cases of racial imbalance. The order reflects the makeup of the Fire Department, which is 75% black and 25% white.

The order is the result of a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Dept. of Justice against the City, on March 18, 1975. This lawsuit de­manding an end to the practice of hiring three blacks for each white until the "racial balance" of the department approximates that of the city.