The dark shadow of Chap- paquiddick continues to haunt Sen. Edward M. Ken- nedy. The parents of Mary Jo Kopechne say they are so tormented by guilt they cannot 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 Hilty, contends the death of Miss Kopechne was accidental. However, sev- eral eye witnesses to events surrounding her death say Kennedy's story cannot be supported by the facts.

Black U.S. Representa- tives, who denied nomi- nations to William O. Douglas and John F. Nangl~ (Dem., Calif.), have drawn the attention of white conser- vatives. The white critics contend liberals apply a "double standard" to racial issues in the country.

The leading left-wing lib- eral Justice, William O. Douglas, on the U.S. Supreme Court, "has eventually been forced to resign," according to a Los Angeles Times report carried nationwide on June 13.

Supreme Court justices are worried that Justice Douglas, who suffered a stroke more than five months ago, can no longer perform his duties properly, and there are ques- tions about his mental condi- tion, 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 in- stead delegating many of his responsibilities to clerks and assistants, violating a Supreme Court principle, the Times said.

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Justice William J. Bren- nan Jr. went to New York to set Douglas' opinions to re- lay to the rest of the court. Douglas' five-month ab- sence has clearly upset the work of the court this term, slow- ing down the production of opinions and consolation of 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 sup- port it. Within the court, the word is that Douglas has not been able to express his share of opinion writing, but adding to the burden on each of the other justices. That would partially explain the court's current backlog, ac- cording to the report.

William O. Douglas

Douglas, 76 years old, suf- fered a stroke Dec. 31, 1974 that immobilized the entire left side of his body, and he still cannot walk. There are indications that Douglas prob- ably will never recover com- pletely from the stroke, the Times said. In addition, Doug- las has a heart pacemaker, which is "getting pretty old," and may have to be re- placed.

During Douglas' absence, his secretaries and clerks fly to New York several times a week to bring his court do- cuments to read while he re- mains in the Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine of New York University. Because of his deteriorating therapy sched- ule, Douglas has little time to read drafts or to confer with his colleagues, the Times said. Justice William J. Bren- nan Jr. goes to New York to set Douglas' opinions to re- lay to the rest of the court.

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