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for  
Chappaquiddick  
impact  
love  
Diana*

*Geraldo*

### Chappaquiddick: What Really Happened?

GERALDO RIVERA ..... Host

Guests:  
LEO DAMORE, "Senatorial Privilege"  
LESLIE LEYLAND, Grand Jury Foreman

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## Chappaquiddick: What Really Happened?

**GERALDO:** Thank you. Thanks. It was perhaps history's most infamous traffic accident, the death of Mary Jo Kopechne in a car driven off a tiny bridge on a lonely dirt road in a pretty place called Chappaquiddick. The facts and circumstances surrounding the fatal crash have haunted the driver of the car, Senator Ted Kennedy. Many say he would long ago have assumed the presidency of this country but for his questionable conduct that tragic night 19 years ago. And the nightmare's about to return to haunt him. Today you'll hear new charges about how he, his powerful family and his influential friends allegedly frustrated, obstructed, and ultimately covered up any real investigation of what really happened. Did you know, for example, that Kennedy was allegedly going to lie about even being in the death car, that he didn't report the accident for almost 10 hours, and that Mary Jo might still have survived if help had been summoned immediately? After almost a generation has passed, the truth has surfaced. Chappaquiddick: what really happened, that's our focus today on Geraldo.

[Titles]

This is actually a two-part series of programs. Over the course of the next two days two very public deaths, from two different sides of this country, will be explored. Today, from New England, it's the fascinating, the infuriating case of Chappaquiddick; tomorrow our gaze will shift toward Hollywood, the west coast, for an examination of the death of a movie queen. That one is what really happened to Marilyn Monroe. What was her relationship to the Kennedys? Was her death really a suicide, or, as is now alleged, did the mob kill her?

But for today it's the most famous car accident in American political history and the alleged cover-up that followed. That's what sent me recently on the short trip to one of the prettiest places in America. Let's take a look.

[on camera] Fall is a wonderful season out here on Martha's Vineyard, and tourists by the thousands are attracted to this beautiful island off the coast of Cape Cod. But the tourists that come to this part of the island don't come here for the scenery. This is Chappaquiddick, and behind me in the distance is the bridge where Mary Jo Kopechne died.

[voice-over] Only one person actually saw Mary Jo's body trapped in the overturned car sealed beneath these chilly waters. It was diver John Ferrar, who was among the first on the scene the morning after the accident.

[interviewing] Where did the car depart the bridge?

**JOHN FERRAR:** The car departed the bridge right here, went 36 feet horizontally, eight feet vertically, dropped into the water after pitch-polling and rolling upside down.

**GERALDO:** It went 36 feet. That's a long distance. How fast was that car moving?

**MR. FERRAR:** You plug it into the formulas, it comes up to between 35 and 40 miles and hour for the weight of that automobile.

**GERALDO:** Forty miles an hour on this dirt road would seem to be pretty fast.

**MR. FERRAR:** It's heinous fast, because the dirt road is all grass, it's all gravel, and it's all wash board.

**GERALDO:** Do you think he was drunk?

**MR. FERRAR:** I can't come up with that theory exactly. However, it has been stated by many, many people that I have talked to that he would have been drunk at that time of night at that particular kind of party.

**GERALDO:** [voice-over] The particular kind of party was held in this rented cottage, just over a mile from the bridge. Six men, including the Senator, all of them close friends, all of them married, drinking and otherwise entertaining six young women, all of them single. The women were the so-called "boiler room girls", all former aids to the slain Senator Robert Kennedy.

Senator Ted and Mary Jo left the party together around midnight. They didn't say

good night, although the others assumed the Senator was driving Mary Jo back to her motel room, located on the main island, a short ferry boat ride from Chappaquiddick.

They drove along this paved road, which dead ends at the ferry. But the Senator claims he got lost en route, somehow driving off the main road, a mistake which ended in tragedy.

But was it really an innocent mistake? When we recently drove the same route, from the cottage to the ferry, it seemed impossible, particularly for someone as familiar with the area as the Senator was, to mistake the obvious sharp left-hand turn, on the paved road to the ferry, for the sharp right-hand turn, down this dirt road. That the Senator was heading for a romantic liaison, or was attempting to avoid being noticed by a cruising policeman, alone, late at night with a woman not his wife in the car, seemed much more logical conclusions.

In any case the Senator over the years has stuck to his story: he lost his way, drove off the bridge, managed to escape the submerged car, tried several times unsuccessfully to rescue Mary Jo, then walked back to the party cottage in shock. Be that as it may, the Senator did not report the accident till after the submerged car was found early the next morning.

Jim Arina, then Edgartown Police Chief, was the first official on the scene. In this photo he's sitting on Kennedy's submerged car, unaware Mary Jo's body was trapped inside. Late that morning, almost 10 hours after the accident, Jim Arina would be the first official to hear Kennedy tell his tale. He says the Senator did not appear to be in shock.

**JIM ARINA:** People have said, you know, "What did he look like?" He was dressed neatly, he didn't appear to be injured, and he certainly didn't appear to have been drinking, at least he didn't give that impression. Other than being in what I would call a down state, a despondent state, he looked normal.

**GERALDO:** But by the time Arina and his tiny police force could begin their formal investigation, the party house had literally been swept clean, and all the boiler room girls had been swept off the island by Kennedy aides before they could be questioned by the police.

**MR. ARINA:** If I had known there had been a party early in the game, I got a chance to get to talk to these people. Unfortunately, when we did find out, they had all left the island, which made things rather difficult for us.

**GERALDO:** Do you think that was intentional?

**MR. ARINA:** Well, there's no doubt in my mind that they wanted to get everybody out of there. I can't place what the intent was, other than the fact they didn't want to talk to us, probably.

**GERALDO:** [voice-over] Perhaps the single most haunting aspect to the Chappaquiddick tragedy is the fact that a timely alarm was never sounded. If it had been, John Ferrar wonders what might have been.

[Interviewing] The car was upside down.

**MR. FERRAR:** The car is upside down in the water, wheels out.

**GERALDO:** She drowned then.

**MR. FERRAR:** No, she didn't drown. That's a common misnomer. The girl suffocated in her own air void.

**GERALDO:** You mean there was an air bubble trapped in the car?

**MR. FERRAR:** There was a great amount of air that was trapped in the automobile initially. There was a great amount of air that was exuding from the automobile nine hours later when we removed it. And she was holding herself in an air void for a considerable period of time.

**GERALDO:** She was conscious.

**MR. FERRAR:** She was totally conscious and was able to hold her face deep into the foot well, which is up in this case, and availing herself of the last air in the automobile.

**GERALDO:** How long do you figure she survived down there?

**MR. FERRAR:** I think a minimum of one hour, possibly as long as two.

**GERALDO:** Are you saying that if the alarm had been sounded shortly after the car went under water, she might have been saved?

**MR. FERRAR:** I think there's no question about the fact that if we had been notified of the accident, if the fire department had been notified within approximately one half to one hour of the time of the accident, that we would have saved the girl's life.

**GERALDO:** [voice-over] Kennedy certainly had unlimited opportunities to call for help. Only moments away from the bridge was this cottage, yet he claimed he didn't see the light reportedly burning there that night. Nor did he take advantage of the 24-hour alarm at this fire station, located just across the street from the party cottage where he reportedly returned following the accident. After telling some friends at the party what had happened, Kennedy reportedly swam across this channel back to the main town very late that night. He was then back among phones and friends. He could have contacted anyone from the cops to the coast guard.

**Sen. EDWARD M. KENNEDY:** I regard as indefensible the fact that I did not report the accident to the police immediately.

**GERALDO:** John Ferrar, the man who carried Mary Jo Kopechne's lifeless body from her underwater tomb, agrees.

**MR. FERRAR:** I think there's no question about it, because I think he made no effort whatsoever. Even the simplest effort of sounding the fire alarm would have brought help immediately. And for that I indict him, yes.

**MR. ARINA:** And I think as far as punishment's concerned with him, that the Senator will hear about this, I'm sure, until his dying day. Here we are 19 years later doing a TV show on him.

**GERALDO:** [on camera] But has the public in 19 years really learned what truly happened? Leo Damore has managed to break a 19-year wall of silence surrounding this case. Kennedy's own cousin Joe Gargon, who was with Ted Kennedy that night, has told Leo the truth about what happened, and Leo has put it in his remarkable new book called *Senatorial Privilege*.

I want to talk to you, Leo, obviously, at great length. I want you to take us through this tragedy. But right now I want to ask you some very simple questions. Do you allege that Ted Kennedy had the opportunity to sound a timely alarm?

**LEO DAMORE:** "Senatorial Privilege". Yes.

**GERALDO:** Do you allege that Kennedy not only failed to give a timely alarm, but had it in his mind to cover up his participation in this fatal crash?

**MR. DAMORE:** Yes, absolutely.

**GERALDO:** Do you allege that Senator Ted Kennedy not only could have done much more to save this woman, but indeed intended, if he had been allowed, to totally skate free?

**MR. DAMORE:** Yes, absolutely.

**GERALDO:** Do you allege that the only reason Senator Ted Kennedy even reported this accident almost 10 hours later was that he was forced to do so by two of his closest associates, one his first cousin?

**MR. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:** We'll examine point by point Mr. Damore's reporting of the Chappaquiddick tragedy. The truth has bubbled to the surface almost a generation later. We'll be right back.

[Commercial break]

**GERALDO:** What really happened at Chappaquiddick, our focus. I've been out to the Vineyard many, many times. I have a house near there. There is the Edgartown Regatta, a very famous series of yacht races. Was that the reason for the party at the so-called party cottage?

**MR. DAMORE:** Oh, that was the pretext of the party.

**GERALDO:** The Senator, five other—

**MR. DAMORE:** And all of his companions.

**GERALDO:** All married guys.

Mr. DAMORE: All married guys.  
GERALDO: Any of them bring their wives to the party?  
Mr. DAMORE: No.  
GERALDO: But they did invite six women.  
Mr. DAMORE: That's true.  
GERALDO: All single women.  
Mr. DAMORE: All single women.  
GERALDO: The so-called boiler room girls.  
Mr. DAMORE: The boiler room girls.  
GERALDO: Okay, these — let me explain. Boiler room sounds very pejorative. What it was actually, is these six young ladies, political professionals, worked at various levels in the campaigns of Senator Robert Kennedy. True Leo?  
Mr. DAMORE: That's true.  
GERALDO: But they got close to the whole —  
Mr. DAMORE: Apparatus.  
GERALDO: Apparatus: the family, the trip.  
Mr. DAMORE: That's true.  
GERALDO: So who arranged this party?  
Mr. DAMORE: Joe Gargon, who was and is Ted Kennedy's cousin, was actually the co-host of this party. He asked all of these young women up to this area at this weekend. All of them came. They were there at the regatta. They were watching the actual races. And afterward they all congregated at a party at a cottage in Chappaquiddick for a cookout and a party. At approximately — and there was a great deal of drinking going on at the party. At approximately 11:30 that evening—  
GERALDO: I'm going to stop you there.  
Mr. DAMORE: Oh, okay.  
GERALDO: You say there was a great deal of drinking?  
Mr. DAMORE: There was a great deal of drinking going on at the party, because it was an extremely hot evening and a hot day.  
GERALDO: How do you know that there was a lot of drinking going on?  
Mr. DAMORE: Mr. Gargon said to me, in the course of our interviews, that "Frankly," he said, "Everybody was a little on the bombed side." He was not, because he was the co-host of the party and he was doing all of the cooking.  
GERALDO: Okay, wait.  
Mr. DAMORE: So he had not had anything to drink.  
GERALDO: Let's pay attention to the story as it unfolds, please. The Senator has always maintained, indeed the surviving boiler room girls have always maintained, that the party was a quiet affair, a decorous affair. True?  
Mr. DAMORE: No, it was not.  
GERALDO: Was it fairly—  
Mr. DAMORE: It was a very, very noisy party, according to all the neighbors in the neighborhood. And as for the drinking, there was an enormous quantity of alcohol at the party. Much of it had been consumed at the party.  
GERALDO: Even by Senator Kennedy?  
Mr. DAMORE: Even by Senator Kennedy. In fact Senator Kennedy, prior to the Chappaquiddick party, had gone to an earlier party after the regatta race.  
GERALDO: What was he drinking?  
Mr. DAMORE: He was drinking rum and Coke. And at that time he had three rum and Cokes after the regatta race. He returned to the Shiretown (?) Inn, changed his clothes and went over to Chappaquiddick, where he had another rum and Coke. During the course of the party he had another rum and Coke prior to eating. Now, I don't know about you, but if I had had five rum and Cokes on an empty stomach, I would be impaired, impaired.  
GERALDO: Okay, let's take the five rum and Cokes, let's take that bit of information and let's store it away for just a little while. The party goes on.  
Mr. DAMORE: The party goes on.

GERALDO: You mentioned 11:30. What happens at approximately 11:30?  
Mr. DAMORE: At approximately half past 11:00, and it could have been later, Mr. Kennedy leaves the party with Mary Jo Kopechne. Interestingly enough nobody sees the car actually leave, but he leaves with her in the car. Approximately an hour and a half after that, at quarter to 1:00, his car is actually seen at an intersection by a man who was the deputy sheriff.  
GERALDO: I want to stop you there. Gotta go slow here.  
Mr. DAMORE: Okay.  
GERALDO: He leaves the party with Mary Jo.  
Mr. DAMORE: He leaves the party with Mary Jo.  
GERALDO: Do they say, "Good night, folks"?  
Mr. DAMORE: No, they do not.  
GERALDO: Do they say, "Folks, I'm going to take— me, the married Senator, is going to take this single woman back to her motel so she doesn't miss the last ferry from the little island of Chappaquiddick back to the main island of Martha's Vineyard"?  
Mr. DAMORE: No. As a matter of fact, Mary Jo Kopechne leaves the party, she does not take her handbag with her. So it's perfectly obvious that she, at least, intends to return to the party.  
GERALDO: Okay. So the Senator and Mary Jo vanish.  
Mr. DAMORE: Leave together, yes.  
GERALDO: Vanish together. The car is seen at approximately 12:45 by a special officer a temporary summer cop.  
Mr. DAMORE: That's true. He is wearing— at the time he's wearing his uniform. He's wearing the uniform of a deputy sheriff. He sees this car, which has been driven off of a road, and he gets out of his car and begins to approach Mr. Kennedy's car under the assumption that these people perhaps are lost. At the time that he does that, the Kennedy car is backing up, and its backup lights are all over his uniform. So it's obvious that he knows that he is there. What happens after this is that Mr. Kennedy's car turns deliberately onto the dirt road, in order, it is very clear, to avoid confrontation with a police officer.  
GERALDO: Do you speculate — because it's impossible to know, Mary Jo has obviously passed on, Senator Kennedy is not going to tell you — do you speculate that Senator Kennedy was rushing in the car to avoid being questioned by a uniformed policeman that late at night, alone, with a woman not his wife?  
Mr. DAMORE: Exactly. In fact, that is the expressed opinion of two of the police officers who conducted an investigation out of the district attorney's office. I was told by one of these men, "What we have here clearly is a drunk driving case. He's in a car with this girl, he does not want to be pinched for drunk driving. So when he sees this man in a uniform heading for his car, he doesn't hang around. He gets the hell out of there."  
GERALDO: Did he drive off in a tentative and uncertain fashion, as if he were lost, or did he drive off in a decisive manner, to indicate that he knew exactly where he was headed?  
Mr. DAMORE: In a decisive manner, and also in haste.  
GERALDO: He was on a dirt road.  
Mr. DAMORE: He was on a dirt road.  
GERALDO: What lies at the end of that dirt road?  
Mr. DAMORE: What lies at the end of the dirt road is an extremely narrow bridge that leads to a beach. There is nothing on the other side of the bridge. There's not a road on the other side. It's sand dunes.  
GERALDO: Dike (?) Bridge.  
Mr. DAMORE: That's true.  
GERALDO: What happens when the car reaches Dike Bridge is where we'll focus our attention after this break.  
*[Commercial break]*  
GERALDO: Our focus is what really happened at Chappaquiddick. We're about to con-

time with Leo Damore, who's written this incredible book *Senatorial Privilege*. Before we do, let me introduce Leslie Leyland. He was the grand jury foreman on Martha's Vineyard who tried diligently to find out what happened at Chappaquiddick. He says that all his efforts were blocked. Correct?

**LESLIE LEYLAND:** Grand Jury Foreman. That's correct.

**GERALDO:** All right. I want to get to what happened at the grand jury. Right now, the car—what was it, a '67 Oldsmobile?

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:** Whose car was it?

**Mr. DAMORE:** It was his car.

**GERALDO:** The Senator's car.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:** Okay. The car is heading down Dike Road, away from the uniformed, temporary officer.

**Mr. DAMORE:** Officer of the law. That's correct.

**GERALDO:** What happened?

**Mr. DAMORE:** The car goes off the edge of the bridge. He gets out of the car, she does not.

**GERALDO:** How did he manage to get out?

**Mr. DAMORE:** He got out of the car, according to an expert who I talked to at the—up at the crime lab, the Massachusetts Police, he said, "What obviously had happened, is because the impact occurred on her side, that his car door probably sprung open and he was virtually ejected out of the car. But there was no way that he could get out of the window, none at all."

**GERALDO:** He didn't get out of the window. You think he was thrown out, as they say—

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:**—as the car was pitch—

**Mr. DAMORE:** He got lucky.

**GERALDO:** In other words, the car's going up over—

**Mr. DAMORE:** Over, and smash, and he was out of the car.

**GERALDO:** Flipped out of the car.

**Mr. DAMORE:** In that way, yes. In that way.

**GERALDO:** What happens then?

**Mr. DAMORE:** He gets out of the water. He's does not go to the cottage that is on the edge of that pond.

**GERALDO:** Wait a second. Don't get us out of the water yet. Does he dive down to try to rescue this woman?

**Mr. DAMORE:** I have no way of knowing that. I don't believe time-wise that he would have had time to do any of that rescue that he said that he did.

**GERALDO:** He told the world that he tried time and time again, fighting the currents, fighting the chilly water, fighting the dark, fighting the terror, to pull her out of there.

**Mr. DAMORE:** I haven't any comment to make about those remarks. The information that I have is that he returned to the cottage. He was—

**GERALDO:** Wait a second. His cottage is over a mile away, the party cottage.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:** There's one, I saw it with my own eyes, 100-125 yards downs the road.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's right.

**GERALDO:** Did he stop there?

**Mr. DAMORE:** No, he didn't.

**GERALDO:** Why not?

**Mr. DAMORE:** Because he did not intend to report the accident at that time obviously. There were other houses on that road also that he could have gone to. They had lights on. He did not go there either, because it's very clear that he intended to return to the party cottage. And when he got to the party cottage, he did not go into the cottage and say, "My God, I've had an accident." He halted a person who was in the front yard,

told him, "I want Joe and Paul," meaning Joe Gargon—

**GERALDO:** His cousin.

**Mr. DAMORE:**—Paul Markum—

**GERALDO:** Former U.S. Attorney.

**Mr. DAMORE:** Yes. He got into another car that was there in the dark; it's an extremely dark night. Joe and Paul come out of the cottage, get into the car. He tells them, "I've had an accident. Mary Jo was with me at the bridge." And it is Joe Gargon who drives that car in haste at the bridge. He gets out of the car, so does Paul. They remove their clothes. And it is Paul Markum and Joe Gargon who are the ones who get into the water to affect a rescue.

**GERALDO:** A failed attempt.

**Mr. DAMORE:** A failed attempt. But one attempt, at some risk to their lives.

**GERALDO:** I agree it must have been at some risk. How do you know these things, Leo?

**Mr. DAMORE:** I know these because of my long interviews with Joe Gargon.

**GERALDO:** Why did Joe Gargon talk to you, the cousin, the confidant, the insider? Why did he tell you these things?

**Mr. DAMORE:** Joe Gargon happens to be a man of high moral courage. And I was a local man who knew him, he knew of me as a reporter. He had read an earlier book of mine. We had mutual friends. I went to him, told him what I was doing. He knew from the very beginning that I was doing this as a book. Over a period of a year he and I evolved into a relationship, which he could finally and ultimately tell me the truth.

**GERALDO:** Do you think that he was getting it off his conscience finally?

**Mr. DAMORE:** Absolutely. He had to tell, he had to get rid of this terrible burden that he'd carried for all these years.

**GERALDO:** So Joe Gargon, Senator Ted Kennedy's own cousin, has told—an eyewitness to these rescue attempts, because he participated, told you these things happened.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's right.

**GERALDO:** Paul Markum, Joe Gargon, dive repeatedly into the Oldsmobile in an attempt to get Mary Jo, or at least her body, out of there.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:** Did Ted Kennedy also join in those rescue attempts?

**Mr. DAMORE:** No, he did not.

**GERALDO:** He did not.

**Mr. DAMORE:** He was on the bridge.

**GERALDO:** What was he doing?

**Mr. DAMORE:** He was on the bridge. Well, occasionally he would holler out, "Is she in there? Can you see her?" Then at one occasion actually, Joe Gargon looked up and Mr. Kennedy was on the bridge on his back. He had his hands at the back of his head, his knees were drawn up, and he was rocking back and forth and repeating, "Oh, my God. Oh, my God. What am I going to do? What am I going to do?"

**GERALDO:** Not, "How is she?" Not, "My God, get her out of there." Not, "We must call the coast guard, the cops, the neighbors—"

**Mr. DAMORE:** No, he said nothing like that.

**GERALDO:** But, "Oh, my God, what am I going to do?"

**Mr. DAMORE:** "Oh, my God, what am I going to do?"

**GERALDO:** We'll be right back.

*[Commercial break]*

**GERALDO:** The cousin and Markum, the close confidant, attempt these many rescues. The Senator is up on the bridge. Time passes. More and more time, the body is still trapped there. No professional help has been summoned. The men then go where, back to the party, or to the ferry?

**Mr. DAMORE:** No. They get out of the water when they realize that they are unable to get her out of the car. They tell this to Teddy Kennedy, "We cannot get into the car." They get into the other car that is there and proceed to slowly, because they're all in a state of shock over this accident, and they head actually for the landing at the ferry.

**GERALDO:** Okay, what they want to do — let me just explain this again. Chappquiddick is a small island right adjacent to Martha's Vineyard. It's actually part of it, and, in fact, by some sand beaches joins the main island of Martha's Vineyard. But the principal way to get from little Chappquiddick to much bigger Martha's Vineyard is to take this little ferry boat. But hasn't the ferry boat stopped running?

**Mr. DAMORE:** It has, it has. However, as they are in the car, Joey Gargon is constantly repeating over and over, "We must report this accident and we must report it now," over and over and over. Nothing is coming out of the back from Ted Kennedy.

**GERALDO:** Okay.

**Mr. DAMORE:** It becomes obvious that he does not want to report the accident. Ultimately what he said to Joe Gargon and Paul Markum is, "Why couldn't Mary Jo car herself to return to Edgartown, made a wrong turn and had the accident?"

**GERALDO:** I want to stop you there. Do you tell us here that Ted Kennedy's own cousin heard these words from Senator Kennedy's mouth?

**Mr. DAMORE:** Yes.

**GERALDO:** Do you allege, Leo, that Senator Kennedy was attempting to draw a tapestry of deceit to cover his own behind?

**Mr. DAMORE:** I do not allege it; I report it as it was told to me by Mr. Gargon.

**GERALDO:** You get to the ferry. Let's get Senator Kennedy, his cousin and his buddy Markum to the Chappquiddick ferry.

**Mr. DAMORE:** All right.

**GERALDO:** There's no boat.

**Mr. DAMORE:** *(crosswalk)* landing there. They're at the landing and this argument's going on about reporting the accident.

**GERALDO:** It's an argument.

**Mr. DAMORE:** It is an argument.

**GERALDO:** Gargon is saying, "You've gotta report it, Ted."

**Mr. DAMORE:** "You have to report the accident."

**GERALDO:** Paul is saying, "You've gotta report it, Ted."

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true. And he does not want to report the accident, and he proposes to them that they return him to the cottage in order for him to put in an appearance, tell the others that Mary Jo has his car, and then he's going to leave and say, "I'm leaving, everybody. I'm leaving, everybody," he's going to find his way back to the Shiretown Inn—

**GERALDO:** To the motel.

**Mr. DAMORE:** —and in an hour or two after that, what he proposes is that Joe Gargon not only discover the accident, but report it to police as having occurred after Senator Kennedy left the party so that he has no involvement whatsoever. Now, Joe Gargon refuses to do this, because, as he told him and told me, "Our rescue efforts had altered the entire situation."

**GERALDO:** Because he and Markum had dove into that car—

**Mr. DAMORE:** The water — this is an extremely public area, they were making a lot of noise, there were the lights of the car—

**GERALDO:** Somebody—

**Mr. DAMORE:** God only knows—

**Mr. DAMORE:** —may have seen them.

**Mr. DAMORE:** Have seen them, and the next morning say, "Yes, I saw Ted and two other guys at that bridge." "You can be placed at the scene of the accident," "is what he tells him, "and this won't work. This alternative scenario that he proposes simply isn't going to work."

**GERALDO:** Leslie Leyland, on the grand jury sitting at that time, is this information you would have liked to have had?

**Mr. LEYLAND:** Most definitely.

**GERALDO:** Reacting, all this time later, do you feel a sense of frustration, do you feel a sense of anger? What is your feeling?

**Mr. LEYLAND:** There are a lot of feelings of frustration and anger. We, the grand jury had been accused of a whitewash, of covering up. And that's much further in the story, but those feelings are still alive today. And with the information that has come forth, Leo's book and the great research he's done, it explains what went on in that frame, that 10-hour gap for example. It also explained the political pressure that was being brought upon the grand jury to do its job as it should have done, or should have been able to do. There was a lot of political—

**GERALDO:** But how could you do the job when you didn't know the truth because nobody talked to you?

**Mr. LEYLAND:** Well, there's a lot of talking going on. Day one, or day two, after the accident I had discussions with the district attorney, had discussion with the—

**GERALDO:** I'm going to ask you to put the proceeding of the grand jury on hold a second. I want to get Kennedy to the next morning when he finally makes the report, but we have to take a break. Our focus, what really happened at Chappquiddick. We'll be right back.

*(Commercial break)*

**GERALDO:** Leo, Leslie, we're running out of time. We have to get the rest of the story told. Our audience has a million questions, as I'm sure the viewing audience has a process.

**Mr. DAMORE:** Okay, fine.

**GERALDO:** Senator Ted Kennedy almost impulsively, because there's no ferry and he wants to get to the main island, jumps in the water, you say, and swims to Martha's Vineyard.

**Mr. DAMORE:** This is not the reason why he — he actually did this after he made this proposal—

**GERALDO:** The cover-up proposal.

**Mr. DAMORE:** —and it was flatly refused. And Joe Gargon reiterated, "We have to report this accident, we have to report it now." Ted Kennedy grows angry, says to him, "All right, all right. I'm tired of listening to you. I'll take care of it. You go back to the cottage. Don't tell the girls anything about the accident; I don't want them involved. I'll take care of it," opens the car door, takes two steps, jumps into the water, swims away.

**GERALDO:** Swims to the main island.

**Mr. DAMORE:** Swims to the main island.

**GERALDO:** One hundred and 25 *(unintelligible)* away.

**Mr. DAMORE:** One hundred, yeah, around that. He makes it back to the hotel that he is staying in, he goes up to his room, changes his clothes, dries his hair, comes down an outdoor stairway, confronts the manager of the hotel and tells him, "I've been asleep."

**GERALDO:** Do you allege he said that, or indeed orchestrated the entire encounter, to build an alibi?

**Mr. DAMORE:** Absolutely. That's what he was doing. He was, as a matter of fact, implementing the alternative scenario he had proposed to Mr. Gargon, that Mr. Gargon had refused to go along with, on the assumption that ultimately Joey Gargon would do what he told him he wanted done.

**GERALDO:** We have been told for years that the reason Senator Kennedy never sounded the alarm after the accident was that he was deeply in shock, indeed that he had a concussion and confusions and was otherwise the victim of a terrible crash.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

**GERALDO:** Confused.

**Mr. DAMORE:** He was not confused. Joe Gargon told me that — he said, "We had a guy at the landing that was fully capable of reporting his own accident." Because I asked him repeatedly, "Was he in a state of shock?" And he says, "No. Until he dove into the water and swam to Edgartown, he was completely capable."

**GERALDO:** The next morning Joe Gargon, Paul Markum, confront the Senator.

**Mr. DAMORE:** That's true.

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