

States-Item did not use Pearson-Anderson column carried by SFChronicle of this date ("More reports on the Kennedy tragedy!"). At the end of the column they did use, "Lobbyist cripples toy hazard law," carried news story on the Anderson column, below. they added

town.

**Plan to Shift Blame From Ted Reported**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Columnist Jack Anderson says Sen. Edward M. Kennedy asked his cousin, Joseph Gargan, "to take the rap" for driving the car in which a young secretary drowned.

In his copyrighted column today, Anderson said Gargan "grimly said he would admit to driving the car."

"In the cold light of dawn, Kennedy decided to face the consequences himself, and then he filed his terse statement with the Edgartown police at 10 a.m.," said Anderson, who co-authors the column with Drew Pearson.

THE WASHINGTON POST quoted Gargan as saying in Hyannis Port, Mass., there was "no truth whatsoever" to Anderson's story.

Anderson, attributing his

STATES-ITEM

AUGUST 8, 1969

story to "reliable sources" and Kennedy "intimates," said the senator had invited Mary Jo Kopechne to go for a midnight swim the night the car went off a narrow bridge.

The columnist described the swim as "a nocturnal adventure not uncommon on Martha's Vineyard."

"Nor are these summer night swims necessarily viewed as evidence of immoral

conduct," Anderson added. He said Kennedy knew where he was going but the car was going too fast and went off into the water.

MARY JO drowned despite Kennedy's efforts to free her.

In his exhausted state, Kennedy conceived the idea of asking "Joe Gargan to take the rap for him," Anderson said.

Anderson said Kennedy

summoned Gargan and "returned to the scene of the disaster to make certain that Gargan would be totally familiar with the circumstances surrounding 'his' unfortunate accident."