

Ted Didn't Make Swim, Says Writer

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. Edward Kennedy did not make the impulsive 150-yard swim between two islands off the Massachusetts coast the night his car plunged into the water and killed Mary Jo Kopechne, columnist Jack Anderson said today.

Anderson said he learned Kennedy made the trip from Chappaquiddick Island to Martha's Vineyard in a boat along with two friends.

A spokesman for Kennedy said the Massachusetts Democrat would have no comment on the column.

Rescue Try

In his nationally televised remarks after the accident, Kennedy said he tried to rescue Miss Kopechne along with help from his cousin Joe Gargan and a friend, Paul Markham.

He said the three went to the ferry for Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard but it was closed for the night.

"I suddenly jumped into the water and impulsively swam across, nearly drowning once in the effort, returned to my hotel around 2 a.m. and collapsed in my room," Kennedy said.

But Anderson, who writes jointly with Drew Pearson, said:

"Gargan and Markham rustled up a boat and took Kennedy to adjoining Martha's Vineyard. The senator did not suddenly jump into the water and impulsively swim the treacherous

—Turn to Page 12, Col. 2

—From Page 1
150-yard channel as he later claimed."

Off Island

Anderson said Kennedy had asked Gargan to take the blame for the accident — to tell police that he, not Kennedy, was driving the car. The late-night trip across to the other island, Anderson said, was designed to get Kennedy off Chappaquiddick Island before the accident was reported.

After Kennedy returned to his hotel and changed into dry clothes, Anderson said, he spoke to the hotel room clerk to establish an alibi.

"The next morning," Anderson said, "Gargan and Markham returned to Edgartown to pick Kennedy up. They assumed that they were still the only three persons who knew about the accident and they wanted another look at the scene in the daylight."

Car Found

"As they were crossing the channel, however, someone mentioned that a car had been found bottom up in Poucha Pond. Kennedy was shaken and walked off alone to get a hold on his emotions.

"Standing behind a car, he decided what he must do. It

was his moment of truth," Anderson said.

Both Kennedy and Gargan have denied that Kennedy ever asked his cousin to take the blame for the accident.

After the ferry docked, Anderson said, Kennedy telephoned his lawyer, Burke Marshall, then returned to Edgartown and gave a statement to the police.

D.A. Asks Autopsy for Mary Jo Makes Plea In Pa. Court

NEW BEDFORD (Mass.) — (AP) — District Attorney Edmund Dinis says exhumation and an autopsy are needed for the inquest he will conduct into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, drowned last month when a car driven by Sen. Edward Kennedy plunged off a Chappaquiddick Island bridge.

Dinis applied to the Luzerne County, Pa., Court of Common Pleas yesterday for a court order for the exhumation and autopsy.

He said he wants the autopsy report to present at the inquest, scheduled to open Sept. 3 at Edgartown.

"The purpose of the inquest is to determine whether or not there is any reason sufficient to believe that the sudden death of Mary Jo Kopechne may have resulted from the act or negligence of a person or persons other than the deceased," he said in the petition.

Dinis also told the Pennsylvania court his investigation is being conducted "in order that the circumstances of the death may be clearly established and the doubt and suspicion surrounding the death be resolved."

Miss Kopechne, 28, a former secretary in the office of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy in Washington, is buried in her hometown of Plymouth, Pa.