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Former President Nixon tried in vain for an hour to save the lives of three Marines yesterday in a traffic accident. The San Diego Tribune said in today's editions it had pieced together this account of the incident.

Mr. Nixon was returning from a Marine Corps golf course with his son-in-law and daughter, Edward and Tricia Cox, when the crash occurred directly in front of his car. A Secret Service agent driving the Nixon car stopped it, and Mr. Nixon asked him to radio for medical help. Nixon and Cox then tried to free a Marine pinned in the wreckage, where two other men already had died. Cox used a crowbar but the third man finally also died.

(Complete.)