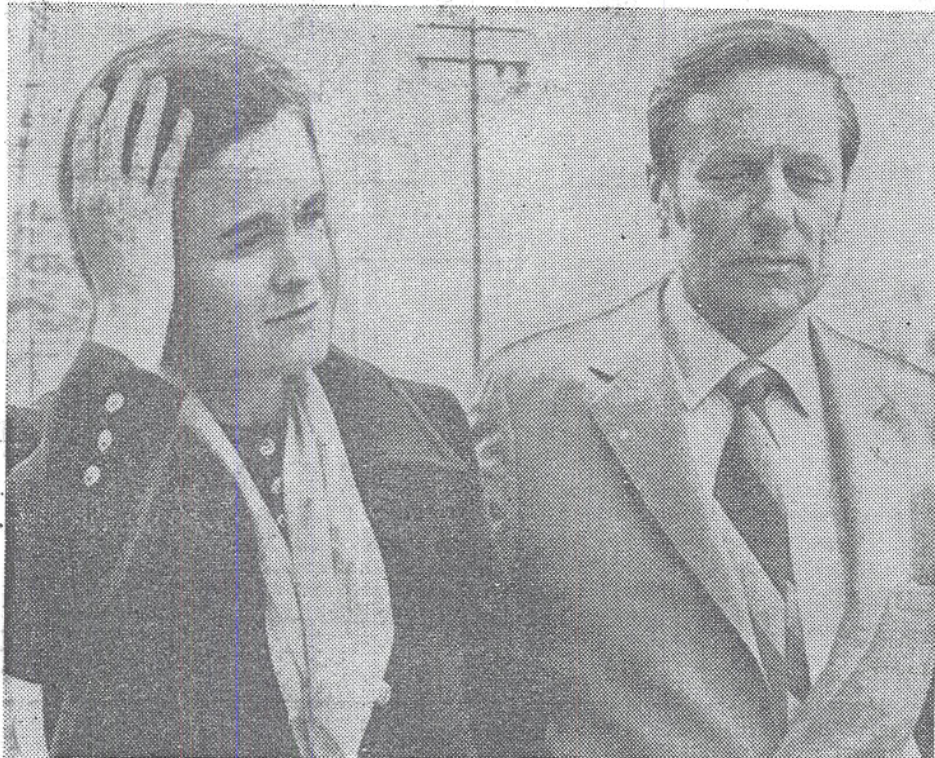


20 Oct 69

Deputy Disputes Kennedy On Time of Auto Wreck



—AP WIREPHOTO.
JOSEPH A. KOPECHNE walks with **MISS MARGARET CARROLL** of Washington, D. C., during recess break in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where hearing is under way on a petition to exhume the body of Mary Jo Kopechne. Miss Carroll was a roommate of Mary Jo in Washington.

By **LEE LINDER**

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)—A deputy sheriff testified today he saw Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's automobile, in which Mary Jo Kopechne died, approximately an hour after the time Kennedy said it went off a bridge and overturned in a pond.

Christopher Look Jr. of Dukes County, Mass., told a hearing on a petition by a Massachusetts prosecutor for an autopsy on Miss Kopechne's body that he was heading home from work early on the morning of July 19 when he saw a black sedan.

Look said, "There were two persons in the front seat and possibly another person or some object in the back" when the car drove past him and came to a stop.

"I GOT OUT OF my car and, as I approached, the taillights shown on my uniform. The time was about 12:45 a. m. on the morning of July 19."

Look said as he approached the car, "it suddenly took off and went down Dike Road toward the bridge and the beach.

Look was among the first witnesses to testify before Judge Bernard C. Brominski of Common Pleas Court as the hearing opened.

"Did you have any conversation with anyone in that car?" Dist. Atty. Edmund Dinis of New Bedford, Mass., asked Look.

"No, sir!" Look replied.

"DID YOU CRY out to anyone in that car?"

"No, sir!" Look said.

Look said he observed the license plate of the car, it bore a Massachusetts regis-

tration, the first letter was "L" and "there were some 7s in it."

Kennedy's license plate number was L78207.

Kennedy, when he reported the accident, said it occurred before midnight July 18.

Look testified he was at the scene of the accident when the partially submerged car was pulled from the water.

"THE INSTANT I saw the registration, I went to a police officer and I told him that's the same car I had seen previously the night be-

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fore at approximately 12:45 on Chappaquiddick Road," Look said.

Another witness, John N. Farrar, a 33-year-old scuba diver from Edgartown, described how he brought Miss Kopechne's body to the surface.

Earlier, the judge refused to allow statements made by Kennedy to be introduced in evidence.

Police Chief Dominick J. Arena of Edgartown, Mass. the first witness at the hearing, on a petition by a Massachusetts prosecutor to exhume the body of the 28-year-old former secretary, told the court that he had taken a statement from Kennedy.

When he sought to read it at the request of Dist. Atty. Edmund Dinis of New Bedford, Mass., lawyers for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Kopechne of Berkeley Heights, N.J., objected on grounds it was hearsay.

Judge Bernard C. Brominski of Common Pleas Court sustained the objections four times over the repeated efforts of Dinis' assistant, Armand Fernandes Jr. to have it read into the record.

ARENA described the accident scene and told how he was summoned to the dike bridge on Chappaquiddick Island on the morning of July 19 and had assisted a scuba

diver in recovering Miss Kopechne's body from the submerged automobile.

Fernandes asked Arena to describe Miss Kopechne's appearance as the police chief cradled her body in his arms.

"She was dressed in a white blouse, dark slacks, a pair of sandals and everything else appeared normal, except that she was dead," Arena said. "There were no injuries that I could see."

The police chief was asked on cross examination by the Kopechne attorney if he had seen any blood on her body or on her clothing.

"NO SIR!" the chief replied.

Arena said the body was pulled out of the automobile by a rope, which diver John N. Farrar of the Edgartown Fire Department had attached to the body.

The attorney also wanted to know whether Arena had suffered any injury himself during the diving operation.

The police chief said he had suffered a cut on one of his toes but did not know if it had bled. Arena also said that at no time could he recall that his foot came in contact with the body.

DINIS has alleged that there was blood in Miss Kopechne's nose and mouth and on her clothing.