

GORE VIDAL HITS KENNEDY LEGEND

W. J. T. - 3/11/67

Author - playwright Gore Vidal, a family connection of Mrs. John F. Kennedy, says that if the American voters perpetuate the Kennedy dynasty in office they will get what "a frivolous and apathetic electorate" deserves.

Vidal and Mrs. Kennedy were the stepchildren of Hugh D. Auchincloss of Washington. Their friendship spanned more than 20 years.

In one of the most critical of any report written so far by a former friend of President Kennedy, Vidal charges that the Kennedy are an illusion-

making clan, bereft of any true sense of purpose or commitment except to themselves.

In an article in the current issue of Esquire magazine, Vidal says the "family, finally, was his (President Kennedy's) only commitment and it colored his deeds and judgment." Kennedy's administration "was not a success," said Vidal, so that today "Kennedy dead has infinitely more force than Kennedy living" as a legendary touchstone of political excellence.

"But mostly the legend is the deliberate creation of the Kennedy family and its clients,"

Vidal wrote. "Wanting to regain power, it is now necessary to show that once upon a time there was indeed a Camelot beside the Potomac, a golden age forever lost unless a second Kennedy should become president."

Calling them the "holy family," Vidal charges that each Kennedy "god" and "goddess" has a trust fund from Joseph P. Kennedy worth \$10 million, yet send bills to be paid by the family office. He states that an estimated \$1 million a year is currently being spent to promote Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's career.