

Joan Kennedy Fears for Ted's Life

New York

Joan Kennedy, wife of Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy, says in a magazine interview, "Frankly, I worry all the time whether Ted will be shot like Jack and Bobby."

"It's odd, but my fears for Ted's life really didn't start when Jack and Bob were killed — at least not consciously," said Mrs. Kennedy, 33, in an interview in Ladies' Home Journal.

"They began — and I remember it quite clearly — while I was watching the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago," she said. "I got very, very scared at the thought of Ted being thrown

into that — and I guess I'm still scared."

Mrs. Kennedy, mother of three and wife of the senator since 1958, said her husband "tries to keep things from me — serious threats against his life, that kind of news — but I know what's going on. "This is such a painful subject with us that we can't even discuss it. But we both know it's there."

Asked about the Chappaquiddick accident last year in which Mary Jo Kopechne drowned after a car driven by Kennedy plunged from a bridge, Mrs. Kennedy said, "I believe everything Ted said."

"I believe in giving him all



JOAN KENNEDY
'I worry all the time'

the support I can," she said. "It was a very unfortunate . . . a tragic accident."

Saying her husband probably should have notified police sooner about the accident, Mrs. Kennedy added, "I think anyone under the circumstances would be in a confused state."

"It was a very brave thing for him to do, to keep diving down to rescue Mary Jo," she said. "I'm lucky he came out of it alive at all."

Of the speculation that Kennedy and Miss Kopechne may have been headed for a midnight swim when the accident occurred, Mrs. Mrs. Kennedy said, "No, I'm sure they weren't. Ted left the

party early so he could get a good night's sleep and be ready for the next day's sailing race."

Mrs. Kennedy said public life meant too much to her husband to be "frightened off" and denied "all this you hear about the Kennedy family pressuring Ted to run for president . . ."

"What family? What's left of the Kennedys? Besides Ted—only women and children," she said. "You don't seriously think we want Ted to be president do you?"

"I never wanted Ted to be president. Never," she said. "I don't think Ted has ever wanted to be president, either."

Associated Press