

Ted's Wife: I Live in Fear

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MRS. EDWARD KENNEDY

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NEW YORK — With the specter of assassination still in her mind, Mrs. Edward Kennedy said today she hopes her husband will wait until 1976 to seek the presidency.

In an interview with Good Housekeeping magazine conducted before yesterday's attempt on the life of Alabama Gov. George Wallact, Joan Kennedy said she fears that her husband, like his brothers, will be assassinated.

"I live in fear. I have for a long time," she said.

The senator receives hundreds of threats against his life every week.

Her father, Harry Wiggin Bennett, said "Joan is terrified."

"I would do anything that Ted would want to do and I certainly wouldn't make it difficult for him if the Presidency is what he wants," Mrs. Kennedy said. "Some day. I hope it's not this year."

Mrs. Kennedy disclosed that she has been seeing a psychiatrist for more than a year and feels that "four years from now I'll be more able to cope."

She said she began psychiatric treatment in Washington in January, 1971.

"I had lost my self-confidence. The only thing I knew — that I was really sure of — was that I had an attractive

face and pretty good figure," she said.

"It's very easy to feel insecure when you marry into a very famous, intelligent, exciting family. I certainly don't regret having done it, but it's difficult. You start comparing yourself to the other Kennedy women and somehow your confidence in yourself begins to evaporate."

Awed by the other Kennedy women, she said she resorted to such attention-getters as spectacular outfits.

"I wish I'd never done that," she said . . . "let's just say I don't need to do that sort of thing anymore."

Psychotherapy has proved "more than helpful," she said. "It's been fan-

tastic. I feel more independent, more self-assured. I feel so much better about . . . just about everything."

Mrs. Kennedy said that in addition to fearing for her husband's life, she also dreads the loss of privacy the Presidency would mean for her husband, herself and their three children as a family. The children, Kara, 12, Edward Jr., 10, and Patrick, 4, are "so young, so impressionable. They need time to mature," she said.

And for herself, she said, "I'd be happier if I had more time, time to grow up, time with my children as children. Four years from now I'll be more able to cope."