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Text of Krogh's Letter of Resignation

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WASHINGTON, May 9—
Following is the text of a letter of resignation submitted this morning to President Nixon by Egil Krogh Jr., Under Secretary of Transportation and former White House aide who has become implicated in the 1971 burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist:

As I have confirmed in an affidavit filed with the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, I agreed to a certain mission by employes of the special investigating unit which operated under my direction from the White House in 1971. As the sworn statement makes clear, agreement to this mission was my responsibility, a step taken in excess of instructions, and without the knowledge or permission of any superior.

Under the circumstances which prevailed in the summer of 1971, and based on the best information available to me at the time, I believed that my decision was dictated inescapably by the vital, national security interests of the United States.

I now see that this judgment may well have been in error, though prompted by what was then my highest

sense of right. Its consequences, to my eternal regret, have proved injurious both to a number of innocent persons and to that reverence for law on which our society is founded.

My overriding desire now is to accept full responsibility for my acts and decision and to assist in bringing all the facts and circumstances into the open so that a fair judgment of this activity can be rendered.

With public confidence in our Government already shaken by the Watergate affair, and with the complete affirmation of your personal integrity so imperative at this time, I cannot remain in the Administration while my role in the special investigating unit is submitted to the legal scrutiny it must now properly receive.

It is right that the men and women of the Department of Transportation have an Under Secretary who enjoys full public trust and can devote full time to his job. It is for these reasons that I submit my resignation as Under Secretary of Transportation.

The opportunity I have had to participate in your Administration during the past four

years has been the greatest experience of my life. In particular, it was rewarding for me as a member of your staff to have a hand in the establishment of your global program to combat narcotics and drug abuse and to work closely with the people of the District of Columbia during this period of great progress for the city.

My service at the Department of Transportation, though brief, has also brought priceless lessons and friendships with many superb public servants whom you can be proud to have on your team.

I leave the Government with great reluctance and sadness at the conclusion of a chapter that has meant so much, but also with the sincere hope that my actions in the coming days will contribute to the inexorable process of healing in which our country is now caught up.

Truth alone can bring the healing and make men free, and as best I can I am making truth my guide. I am grateful beyond words for the privilege of serving with you, and would welcome any occasion the future might bring for me to assist you personally or to re-enter the service of the United States.