

## Egil Krogh: Political Lawyer's Rise and Fall in 33 Years

By Peter Jay

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Before he was 33, Egil M. (Bud) Krogh Jr. had become a shaper of policies both public and clandestine, a young White House lawyer who had meetings with senators and took trips around the world on presidential business.

Last January he left the White House when President Nixon named him under secretary of Transportation. Four months later he had resigned, his career in ruins like the careers of other young men stained by the explosion of scandals collectively called Watergate.

Now, having publicly accepted full responsibility for the 1971 burglary of the office of the psychiatrist of Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg, Krogh is jobless at 33, with no immediate prospects of finding work, and facing criminal prosecution for his role in the break-in.

"I don't feel any bitterness," he said in a recent interview. "I'd like to go on in public service work. But I haven't been ducking any job offers; there haven't been any to duck."

At the direction of his attorney, Stephen N. Shulman, Krogh would not discuss substantive aspects of his role in the break-in or other Watergate-related matters. But he spoke with enthusiasm and composure, though often in general terms, of his work at the White House.

Friends, however, say that Krogh has been shocked by the sudden collapse of his fortunes—though probably no more so than the people both within the White House and without who had come to consider him a highly scrupulous Mr. Clean.

One of Krogh's White House tasks—in addition to the covert one of heading the so-called "plumbers" unit that investigated news leaks and carried out the Los Angeles burglary—was to provide liaison with the District of Columbia government.

This, by most accounts, he did well and conscientiously, making a number of friends in the process. Some of

these friends see him partly as a typical young Nixon staff man, religious in outlook and Middle Western small-college in origin, partly to blame for his part in the scandal and partly an innocent victim.

"Bud did something stupid," concedes one of his friends, "but you have to remember this: he came forward when he wasn't under pressure, and the only one he implicated was himself."

Early last month, Krogh detailed in an affidavit how he sent two of the "plumbers"—E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, both subsequently convicted as conspirators in last year's burglary of the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate—to try to secure Ellsberg's psychiatric records from the Los Angeles office of his psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding.

Subsequently, when he resigned his job at the Department of Transportation, Krogh wrote the President that he ordered the burglary "in excess of instructions and without the knowledge or permission of any superior."

Former presidential counsel John W. Dean III, in his Senate testimony Monday, described himself as "knowing well Krogh would not undertake such a mission himself" and asking if it had been ordered by top presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman.

But Krogh told him, Dean said, "he did not believe that Ehrlichman had been aware of the incident until shortly after it occurred: rather, he had received his orders right out of (Mr. Nixon's) 'Oval Office.'" Shulman would not allow Krogh to discuss this matter further.

Some sources who know Krogh well find it hard to believe he would not have cleared the burglary with Ehrlichman, who he had known since he was 13 and with whom he routinely checked even on less important matters.

In making District policy, for example, Krogh recalled last week, he would decide what he thought should be done and then ask Ehrlichman for a decision. "He might check with the Presi-

dent or he might just tell me to go ahead," he said.

Ehrlichman told the FBI in an April 27 interview that he knew in advance that Liddy and Hunt had been sent to the West Coast to secure information on Ellsberg, but not that a burglary was planned.

Krogh first volunteered to testify before a Los Angeles grand jury investigating the burglary, but withdrew his offer after a change of lawyers and was later subpoenaed.

He has said he was motivated by national security considerations in ordering the burglary, which followed the leaking of the so-called Pentagon Papers to the press by Ellsberg.

He and the "plumbers" believed there might be information in Dr. Fielding's files on Ellsberg that would help them find how the Pentagon Papers and other highly classified information, was leaking, Krogh said in his affidavit. But he said no such information was produced by the burglars.

Like Ehrlichman and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, Krogh is a Christian Scientist. Some friends say his religion prompted him to come forward to tell what he knew—though more than a year and a half elapsed between the Los Angeles burglary and its disclosure during the Ellsberg trial in April.

Krogh is "a very spiritual guy," said Ted Lutz, a transportation official who knows him. Dean, in his testimony, said Krogh was "haunted" by the burglary and thought it perhaps "for the best . . . to get it out in the open."

Krogh himself, speaking about his religion, remarked that "I've wavered—but I've come back."

In his religious beliefs and his politics, a not particularly ideological brand of Republicanism, Krogh followed his parents, both of whom died in 1962. His father, who immigrated to the United States from Norway, worked as a department store official in Chicago, Seattle, Rochester (N.Y.) and Portland, Ore.

One of the striking things

about Krogh's career to those who knew him during his rapid rise in government service is its brevity. Before he came to the White House staff right after Mr. Nixon's election in 1968, he had less than three months of non-military working experience behind him.

After graduating from Principia College, a Christian Science school in Elmhurst, Ill., where he was head of the fraternity council, Krogh spent four years in the Navy—most of it as a communications officer on the carrier Yorktown. He then went to the University of Washington law school, where he was on the law review.

He specialized in land law, and in late 1967 took a three-week trip to South Vietnam as a consultant for a Stanford University group doing a study of land reform there.

After passing the Washington bar exam in the late summer of 1968, he went to work for Ehrlichman's firm—Hullin, Ehrlichman, Roberts and Hodge. But by mid-November he was gone, called to join the new Nixon staff which was being assembled in New York.

In Washington he handled a variety of legal jobs, and earned a reputation as an advocate of legislation sought by the District government, helping push through Congress measures establishing the subway system and setting up drug control programs.

He also traveled to Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America for the administration, coordinating efforts to check the world heroin trade. When drug use by American troops in South Vietnam became painfully obvious in 1971, Krogh

represented the White House in the development of crash programs to do something about it.

When he left the White House for the Department of Transportation in January, the exhilaration was still there; he would still be close to major public issues.

"The President told me in December, at Camp David, that I was explicitly instructed to do what I could to open up the highway trust fund in the coming year," he recalls. He also worked to develop new anti-skyjacking procedures.

"I like the challenge of

government work," he said the other day. "How do you put something together as legislation, and how do you get the President to endorse it?"

He is spending a lot of time these days preparing his defense — some friends in Chicago are said to have started a fund for this purpose—and at home with his wife, Susan, and their two sons. "All this has brought us closer together," he said.

Krogh doesn't smoke or drink, and he jogs daily for exercise—as he used to do during his lunch hour when

he worked at the White House. He looks tan, trim—and worried.

Most of all, he would like to go back to work for the government if possible. "I liked public service work," he said. "Maybe because I haven't really done anything else."

He has many friends in Washington who would like to see him back at work, but they tend to be pessimistic about his prospects. And when they talk about him, even when they praise him, they have a tendency to use the past tense.