

WXPPost
 JAN 25 1974
**Krogh Sentenced
 To Six Months
 For Burglary**

**Ex-Plumber
 Says Nixon
 Not Involved**

By George Lardner, Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

Disclaiming any knowledge of wrongdoing on the part of President Nixon, Egil (Bud) Krogh, the former head of the White House "plumbers," was sentenced to six months in federal prison yesterday for the Ellsberg burglary.

He said he personally received no orders from the President to carry out the break-in, either directly or indirectly.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, who imposed the sentence, said he was also convinced—contrary to widespread impressions—that Krogh was not involved in any of the other activities of the plumbers' unit now under investigation by Watergate special prosecutors.

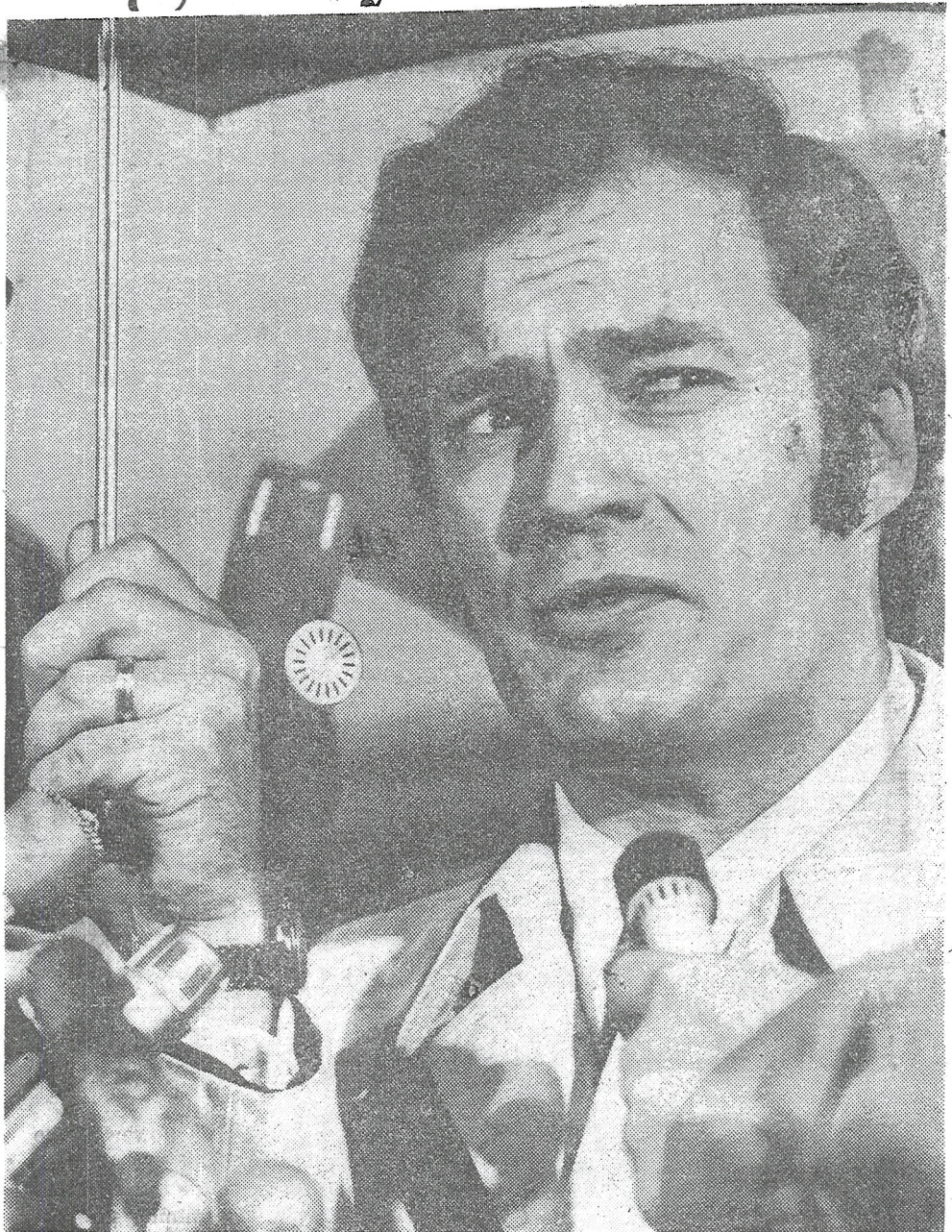
The judge said, however, that "any penalty short of jail would, in the court's view, be inadequate."

Quoting precepts enunciated by the late Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, Gesell said:

"If the Government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy."

Speaking in a husky, at times tremulous voice, Krogh agreed. He said he hoped his conviction and others to come would help "cleanse" the government of misguided notions of "national security" and disregard for individual rights.

A devout Christian Scientist, Krogh, 34, confined himself in the courtroom to a



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Krogh: "I received no specific instruction or authority... from the President."

short, personal confession of guilt. After the hearing he released a longer written statement that had been submitted to Gesell earlier this month.

Gesell sentenced Krogh, 34, to two to six years for conspiracy to violate the civil rights

of Dr. Lewis Fielding, the psychiatrist whose office was burglarized in 1971 in a search for Daniel Ellsberg's medical records.

See KROGH, A16, Col. 1

KROGH, From A1

ords. Gesell suspended all but six months of the confinement.

Krogh made clear in his written statement that he thought the break-in had been authorized by former White House domestic affairs adviser John D. Ehrlichman, but did not go into any details.

Krogh also disclosed that he was "removed" as head of the secret "plumbers" squad in December of 1971 when he refused to authorize a wiretap on Navy Yeoman First Class Charles E. Radford.

Radford had come under suspicion by the White House of leaking National Security Council documents to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson and passing other files on to the Pentagon without authorization.

Krogh said his work with the "plumbers" unit had always been a part-time assignment and virtually ended in November of 1971. But he said he was called back for a few days in December in connection with leaks to Anderson of documents on U.S. policy in the India-Pakistan war.

"In that period, I was asked to authorize a wire tap in connection with a highly sensitive aspect of that leak," Krogh said. "I declined and was there upon removed from the unit the same day."

The tap on Yeoman Radford's phone and four of his friends and associates were subsequently put into effect by the FBI, informed sources told The Washington Post yesterday.

Krogh told newsmen he refused to order the Radford tap because he considered it "inherently risky and dangerous" and doubted that it would remain a secret for long. He said he was asked to authorize it on a Friday eve-

ning, decided against it, then reaffirmed his decision the following Monday and was "removed from the job" that evening.

Recently, Krogh said he discovered—when he was allowed to review White House files on the plumbers' unit last month—that the tap was carried out "along with another one in the same investigation."

Krogh said these were "the only instances of wiretapping by the (plumbers') unit" of which he was aware. He said he did not even learn of these until Dec. 13, 1973, after he had pleaded guilty in the Ellsberg break-in and was permitted to review his files for any evidence in mitigation of his sentence.

The former White House aide refused to go into any other details about the Radford tap, saying that he was still bound by "very clear guidelines" on that issue.

On paper, Judge Gesell sentenced Krogh to two-to-six-year term.

But the judge said Krogh will have to spend only six months in prison. After that, he will be freed on unsupervised probation for two years. Gesell gave him 10 days to straighten out his personal affairs before surrendering to federal marshals.

Calling the sentence "just" and accepting it with "a sense of relief," Krogh emphasized to reporters that he had no bombshells to drop on President Nixon. He said he had no information in his possession that would implicate Mr. Nixon in any wrongdoing.

Asked about Ehrlichman, Krogh said: "I don't know." Krogh said he felt he "had authority for what was done" at Dr. Fielding's office, but that Ehrlichman said after the break-in that he considered it

"in excess of what he thought he had approved."

"In any event," Krogh said in his statement, "I received no specific instruction or authority whatsoever regarding the break-in from the President, directly or indirectly."

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III has said that Krogh told him the orders for the burglary came "right out of the Oval Office." Asked about this outside the U.S. Courthouse, Krogh told reporters that he has had "difficulty" recalling just what he said to Dean. But he declared:

"My best recollection is that I said that authority for the plumbers—general authority—came right out of the Oval Office."

The secret squad was organized in mid-1971 at Mr. Nixon's direction to track down the sources of sensitive news leaks.

Krogh described himself as virtually hypnotized by the incantations of "national security" that came with the assignment.

"The invocation of national security," he said, "stopped me from asking the question, 'Is this the right thing to do?'"

Tracing his own involvement, Krogh said it began at San Clemente on July 15 or 16, 1971, when Ehrlichman told him the President wanted him to undertake an urgent assignment concerning Ellsberg's leak of the Pentagon Papers to the press.

"In that connection, Mr. Ehrlichman instructed me that the President had directed that I read his book, 'Six Crises,' and particularly the chapter on Alger Hiss, in preparation for this assignment," Krogh said. "The message that I drew from this chapter was the President's concern that we proceed with respect to the Pentagon Papers and Dr. Ells-

berg with a zeal comparable to that he exercised as a congressman in investigating Alger Hiss."

Although he headed the plumbers unit, Krogh said his only meeting with President Nixon after its formation was on July 24, 1971, when he and Ehrlichman were called in.

Krogh, who has listened to a tape recording of the session, said the President seemed "deeply troubled" by yet another leak a day earlier—publication in The New York Times of the fallback position of the United States in the strategic arms limitation talks at Helsinki.

"The intensity of the national security concern expressed by the President fired up and overshadowed every aspect of the unit's work," Krogh said, and it was against this backdrop that the Fielding break-in was carried out.

"Doubtless, this explains why John Dean has reported that I told him that instructions for the break-in had come directly from the Oval Office," Krogh stated.

Krogh said he originally thought that Ellsberg had also been mentioned at the meeting, perhaps because of Mr. Nixon's own public statement last May 22. In it, the President said, "I told Mr. Krogh that as a matter of first priority, the unit should find out all it could about Mr. Ellsberg's associates and his motives."

However, Krogh said, "Dr. Ellsberg's name did not appear to be mentioned" on the tape of the meeting, which Krogh reviewed recently at the offices of Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.