

Krogh Ends Prison Term

Family Welcomes Aide Back After 4 Months

By Donald P. Baker
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In the entrance hall, next to strips to crepe paper, a bouquet of balloons and some childish scrawled notes that spelled "Dad," was a stenciled poster that read: "Welcome back to the land of the free and the home of the brave. 6-21-74."

Sue Krogh and her sons, Peter, 9, and Matthew, 4, had waited four months and 17 days for the homecoming of Egil (Budd) Krogh Jr., who returned to society yesterday tanned, robust and humble.

Krogh, 34, the former head of the White House "plumbers," came back from the Allenwood (Pa.) prison farm "optimistic that there will be a redefining of the essential ideals of this country that somehow got lost—at least by a few of us."

Other lessons Krogh said he learned while plowing the Pennsylvania countryside—which along with daily jobs provided his tan and maintained the physical conditioning that "there are a lot of good people in prison, men serve time with me who will be lifelong friends."

Mrs. Krogh, who drove the 180 miles to the prison farm each weekend with the boys, agreed that most of her husband's fellow prisoners were "very nice people, who made one awful mistake."

Krogh was convicted for "conspiracy to violate the civil rights" of Dr. Lewis Fielding, the psychiatrist whose Los Angeles office was burglarized in 1971 in a search for Daniel Ellsberg's medical records.

Krogh still faces possible disbarment as an attorney. He has volunteered to appear personally in Seattle on Aug. 12 before the Washington State Bar Association disciplinary committee.

"The most important matter for the committee," he said while sipping an iced tea yesterday in the living room of his Chevy Chase home, "is to do whatever is necessary to restore respect for the legal profession."

He cannot plan his future until after that bar action, but he said he learned in prison "to take life one day at a time."

Krogh said he is anxious to help with prison reform, the need for which he said he experienced most clearly during two short stays in maximum security institutions—10 days at the Montgomery County detention center in Rockville and in solitary confinement for a few days in a federal institution at Bloomsburg, Pa.

"Each individual needs respect," Krogh said. "You get a feel for what needs to be one when you're inside." He praised private groups, such as the Jaycees and the Seven-Step Foundation, a citizens group promoting prison reform, but he indicated that the problem needs greater public attention.

At Allenwood, he helped organize a distance running group (Krogh has twice won the D.C. Roadrunners annual race around the Ellipse behind the White House), and said he hopes to keep assisting John Howard, the prison recreation director.

"You can do a lot of thinking when you run," he said. Just a few hours after Krogh returned to his home, at 6949 Greenvale Rd. NW, in the Chevy Chase section of the District he and his wife and sons drove to American University, where they jogged around the track.

Running is a Krogh family activity—all but young Matt are members of the roadrunners—and they plan to resume

participating in club activities next week, in a race in Silver Spring.

The phone was ringing frequently yesterday, as friends and family called to welcome Krogh home. He had served the minimum time of a six-month sentence, Krogh, earning 43 days off for good behavior. U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell had suspended all but six months of the two-to-six year sentence.

At one point yesterday, when Krogh was talking on the phone, the boys became a bit rowdy, and Mrs. Krogh said, smiling, "I guess that's to be expected when there is no man in the house for four months."

During her husband's imprisonment, she was able to work and take care of the boys by the expediency of having them attend classes at St. Aidan's Montessori School, where she teaches.

On his first day back, Krogh said he discovered that "the reality of home is better than the dream." He ate two of his favorite dishes, leg of lamb and chocolate cake, and began planning "a long trip."

"First we'll visit Sue's folks in Atlanta, then take the boys to Disney World in Orlando. And then to the West Coast," where Krogh and Peter will climb Rampart Ridge, a mountain that Krogh conquered in his boyhood. After the bar association hearing, they'll come back East, stopping in Elmhurst, Ill., where he will attend a reunion at his alma mater, Principia College.

Before the family leaves, however, Mrs. Krogh said, "there is some yard work to be done. I've done the rest, but he can do that. He has a lot of experience now working with the land."