

Ellsberg Snooper Under Fire

Ex-Aide's Sudden Leave

Washington

Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr., Undersecretary of Transportation and a former White House aide, took sudden leave from his job yesterday after Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar prodded him to publicly tell his role at the time of the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Krogh was named by John D. Ehrlichman this week as a participant in a White House-ordered investigation of Ellsberg, who is on trial in Los Angeles in connection with the disclosure of the Pentagon Papers.

Krogh's departure came as President Nixon took steps to strengthen his administration in the wake of the Watergate disclosures



AP Wirephoto

EGIL (BUD) KROGH
Ex-Ehrlichman aide

by asking Vice President Spiro Agnew to assume new duties in the domestic field.

REPLACEMENTS

Amid reports that Mr. Nixon would not name specific replacements for former aides Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said the President had discussed a number of staff plans but made no decisions.

The vice president will become vice chairman of the domestic council, of which Mr. Nixon is chairman, a member of the quadriad, the top economic advisory group to the President, and more active in supervising the carrying out of domestic policy. It was announced.

Krogh, one of the former White House aides placed in strategic positions in the departments to see that Mr. Nixon's orders are carried out, was an assistant to Ehrlichman when the latter directed G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr. to investigate Ellsberg in connection with the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

LEAKS

Krogh was head of the so-called "plumbers" at the White House, who included Liddy and Hunt. They were charged with suppressing leaks of official papers. Federal investigators said this week that Ehrlichman told the FBI last week that he was informed after the event that Liddy and Hunt broke into the office of a psychiatrist Ellsberg had consulted.

David Young, a National

Security Council staff member who also worked with the "plumbers," resigned a few weeks ago with no announcement or explanation. Ziegler confirmed yesterday.

The press secretary refused to say whether the President knew, at the time he expressed great confidence in Ehrlichman Monday night, of Ehrlichman's statement to the FBI last week that he had been told of the break-in of the psychiatrist's office.

A Transportation Department spokesman said that Brinegar felt he had to take some action and that the "status quo wasn't acceptable."

"He had no information on which to base a request for a resignation," the spokesman said, but he did tell Krogh to speak publicly about his role.

However, Krogh asked for a few days of leave, which Brinegar granted.

One source said that Krogh was "obviously shaken" by the Ehrlichman statement to the FBI as made public in federal court in Los Angeles where Ellsberg is on trial.

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