

'We Were Set Up' -- Nixon Hecklers

By Paul W. Valentine
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Washington

Antiwar veterans who attempted to heckle President Nixon at a Statue of Liberty "ethnic" ceremony last fall and were howled down by hundreds of Nixon partisans say they were tricked into the incident by accepting an anonymous package of 50 invitations to the ceremony.

The hecklers, 20 to 30 members and supporters of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War in New York, were drowned out by the crowd. Some were yanked away by police.

With national television cameras recording the scene, Mr. Nixon interrupted his prepared speech to note: "I would only hope that tonight the TV screens will not show these six (demonstrators being escorted away) instead of the thousands here."

The President raised his hands above his head as chants of support grew among the 3000 to 5000 school children, government officials and "ethnics" assembled on the ten-acre Liberty Island in New York harbor.

'SETUP'

"It was a setup. We were taken," said one VVAW member this week recalling the incident last September 26.

"They were trying to discredit the anti-war move-

Krogh Refuses To Appear at Ellsberg Probe

Los Angeles

Former White House aide Egil Krogh has refused to appear before a county grand jury that is investigating the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, District Attorney Joseph Busch said yesterday.

Krogh took full responsibility for the Ellsberg burglary last month in his letter of resignation to President Nixon.

In Washington, Krogh's attorney, Stephen Shulman, said, "The problem is that we feel he's a target of that grand jury investigation and that he should not appear there voluntarily." Krogh is on a chron wire chess

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ment and the McGovern campaign," said a VVAW worker.

This view was unanimously supported by nearly a dozen New York VVAW members and supporters.

"Whoever it was — CREEP or the White House or somebody else — they are the provvocateurs of a lot of violence at demonstrations," said Joe Hirsch, coordinator

for the southern New York area VVAW.

CREEP is a pejorative acronym for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, Mr. Nixon's principal campaign organization last year.

McCORD

Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr., former security chief for the Re-Election Committee, has singled out the VVAW repeatedly in recent Senate testimony as a "violence-oriented" radical organization requiring surveillance.

In the Statue of Liberty incident, three VVAW members in separate interviews this week gave similar accounts of the VVAW New York office receiving the 50 unsolicited invitations to the ceremony, a formal dedication of an \$3 million American Museum of Immigration.

The official U.S. Park Service embossed invitations came in a plain brown envelope with no return address one day before the September 26 ceremony, said VVAW member Brian Mataresse, of New York.

Those invited to the ceremony were drawn from a master list of 3500 invitees assembled by the Park Service and the American Museum of Immigration, and included members of Congress, state and federal officials, ethnic organization leaders and others, according to Park Service spokesman Robert Mahoney.