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Krogh Balks At Inquiry By Hill Unit

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Egil M. (Bud) Krogh Jr., the former White House aide who has admitted approving the 1971 burglary at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, refused yesterday to answer any questions during a closed-door House hearing.

In 25 minutes Krogh invoked the Fifth Amendment against possible self-incrimination "about 50 times," according to Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee, which is inquiring about Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the burglary and other Watergate-related matters.

Krogh, a one-time assistant to President Nixon's former domestic adviser, John D. Ehrlichman, was in overall charge of the White House "plumbers," a team hired in July, 1971, to investigate security leaks to the press, including Ellsberg's release of the Pentagon Papers.

In an affidavit filed in the Pentagon Papers case, Krogh said he gave approval to E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy—two "plumbers" who were later convicted in the June, 1972, Watergate burglary—to break into the Beverly Hills office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis J. Fielding, in September, 1971.

Their purpose was to obtain documents about Ellsberg, the affidavit said. Because of that burglary and other government misconduct, the case against Ellsberg was thrown out of court.

On July 5 Krogh took the Fifth Amendment when he was summoned before the Los Angeles County grand jury, which is investigating the Fielding burglary.

Yesterday Krogh did the same thing, maintaining that any answer "might" incriminate him, Nedzi said. "He even refused to describe any job he held after 1968," the congressman added.

"We anticipated that he was going to take the Fifth



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Former presidential aide Egil Krogh, right, keeps his mouth closed during an appearance before a House Armed Services subcommittee session on CIA and Watergate.

on critical questions, but we felt it was absolutely essential that we have in the record questions about his role in the 'plumbers' operation as it relates to the CIA," he said.

Hunt has testified that in July, 1971, he got certain equipment—disguises, camera, tape recorder, and phony identification—from the CIA and that some of the equipment was used in the Fielding burglary and other "plumber" escapades. The CIA has denied knowing that the equipment was going to be used for such purposes.

Among the questions Nedzi's subcommittee wanted an answer to was whether Krogh told former White House counsel John W. Dean III last March that the order to snoop into Fielding's files came "right out of the Oval Office," as Dean has testified. Krogh would not reply.

The congressmen also asked—and the witness declined to answer—whether Krogh advised Ehrlichman about the burglary before it occurred, whether Krogh recruited three Cubans also involved in that burglary, whether he knew CIA equipment was used in it, and whether any other persons were on the "plumbers" team.