

# Krogh Aide Says White House Tried To Block Affidavit

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The White House attempted to suppress an affidavit by former aide Egil "Bud" Krogh in which he admitted responsibility for the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, an associate of Krogh said yesterday.

Undeterred, Krogh sent two copies of the affidavit to U.S. District Judge W. Matt Byrne, who is presiding in the Pentagon papers trial of Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in Los Angeles.

Krogh, now on leave as the No. 2 man at the Transportation Department, was in charge of the White House "plumbers," a group set up in July, 1971, by former presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman to plug news leaks after publication a month earlier of the Pentagon Papers.

## Responsible

A source, who has seen the affidavit says Krogh takes full responsibility for the break-in and that he says his superior found out about it only after it happened.

An associate of Krogh said when the White House attempted to suppress the confession Krogh sent one copy of the affidavit to Byrne through the mails to avoid possible interception by the Justice Department. The second copy was given to chief Watergate prosecutor Earl Silbert for official transmission to Byrne.

However, another qualified source denied any White House opposition to the confession, but he did concede that the White House had delivered new guidelines on invoking executive privilege to Krogh's lawyer before the affidavit was signed and that the affidavit might never be made public.

## No Explanation

This second source acknowledges that Krogh sent duplicate copies of his affidavit but doesn't explain why the unusual precaution was taken.

Krogh's associate was emphatic about his assertions of a White House attempt to keep Krogh's affidavit from being made public. "Another cover-up's coming," he said.

Barely two hours after the Associated Press made public this source's account, an official at the White House immediately made available the second source, who had seen Krogh's affidavit, in the early hours of yesterday morning. It was this second source who denied that there was White House interference with Krogh's confession.

Undisputed is that Krogh turned down requests from the FBI to question him about the Ellsberg break-in. Krogh wrote out his confession voluntarily and sent off one copy of it Friday before an afternoon interviews with prosecutor Silbert. *4 MAY*

Also undisputed is that Krogh gives details of a "personal communication" with the President prior to the burglary. Both sources say the President expressed concern to Krogh about news leaks of classified information.

The source who has seen the affidavit — the source

provided by the White House — claims the communication concerned leaks about nuclear arms talks, not the Pentagon Papers, and that the communication was unrelated to the burglary.

According to this version, Krogh tells of being scolded by his superiors after the burglary for taking actions "far in excess" of what was authorized.

Krogh testified under oath earlier this year that he hired G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt — both subsequently convicted in the Watergate wiretapping conspiracy — and supervised their activities with the "plumbers."

## Team of Five

In grand jury testimony released Friday, Hunt said that he, Liddy, former CIA agent Bernard Barker and two Cubans made up the burglary team.

Hunt said the burglary operation was conducted under the supervision of Krogh and David Young, a National Security Council staff member who resigned recently.

Hunt said he assumed Ehrlichman knew about it but that he met Ehrlichman only once.

Ehrlichman has told the FBI he found out about the break-in after it happened, and Krogh's reported affidavit backs that up.

Krogh, 33, once worked in Ehrlichman's Seattle law firm; came with him to Washington and became an all-purpose aide, involving himself in activities including crime-control legislation, efforts to control drug smuggling, liaison with the District of Columbia government and setting up Amtrak.

In his sworn testimony, given before the Senate

Commerce Committee at hearings on his nomination to be undersecretary of transportation, he said he had been boss of the "plumbers" from July to early October, 1971. The Ellsberg burglary was in September, 1971.

Krogh also denied receiving any wiretap information during that time, and committee chairman Warren G. Magnuson, (D-Wash.), has asked that Attorney General-designate Elliott Richardson investigate whether Krogh committed perjury with that statement.