

Krogh Takes Full Blame --And Quits

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Washington

Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr., a former White House aide who authorized an attempt to steal documents from Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, resigned yesterday as Undersecretary of Transportation, admitting "error" of judgment.

In a letter to President Nixon, Krogh took full responsibility for the action and said he acted without permission from any superior. At the time, he was an assistant to John D. Ehrlichman, the President's chief domestic affairs adviser, who resigned last week.

Krogh submitted an affidavit last week to Judge W. Matt Byrne Jr., who is presiding at the Ellsberg Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles, admitting that in 1971 he sent Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy to burglarize the psychiatrist's office.

When Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar learned of the affidavit he called on Krogh to explain his position publicly, and Krogh hastily took a leave of absence.

Krogh's letter to the President, released at the Transportation Department, said the assignment to the two conspirators "was my responsibility, a step taken in

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excess of instructions, and without the knowledge or permission of any superior."

Under the conditions that prevailed then, Krogh added, "I believed that my decision was dictated inescapably by the vital, national security interests of the United States. I now see that this judgment may well have been in error, though prompted by what was then my highest sense of right.

"Its consequences, to my eternal regret, have proved injurious both to a number of innocent persons and to that reverence for law on which our society is founded."

RESPONSIBILITY

The former aide told the President that his "overriding desire" now is to accept "full responsibility" and to assist in bringing all the facts into the open.

"With public confidence in our government already shaken by the Watergate affair," he said, "and with the

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complete affirmation of your personal integrity so imperative at this time, I cannot remain in the administration while my role in the special investigative unit is submitted to legal scrutiny it must now properly receive."

Krogh headed a special White House unit called "the plumbers" set up at the time of the publication of the Pentagon Papers to try to stop leaks of secret information and to determine how the Pentagon Papers reached the press.

Brinegar named John W. Barnum, general counsel of the transportation Department since June 1971, as an interim official to succeed Krogh.

DEAN

In a related matter, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, confirmed that the White House wants back documents which former counsel to the President John W. Dean III said he had placed in a bank safety box.

Dean has turned the keys to the box over to U.S. District Court here.

Ziegler said that the White



AP Wirephoto

EGIL (BUD) KROGH
Ex-Ehrlichman aide

House has no objection to the court making copies of the documents but that they are official papers and should be returned to the White House.

The President scheduled a Cabinet meeting for 9 a.m. today, after which he may make a new announcement either about the Watergate investigation, or about his reorganization of the White House staff.

Asked what the reaction had been to the President's speech last week on Watergate, Ziegler said the White House has received 4496 telegrams favorable to the speech and 1715 that were critical.

He emphasized that he gave the figure reluctantly because of disclosures that the Committee to re-elect the President last year sent hundreds of telegrams and letters in support of the President's May 8, 1972, decision to mine North Vietnamese