

A Watergate Casualty

NYTimes Egil Krogh Jr. MAY 10 1973

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 9—A former White House aide, Egil Krogh Jr., resigned today as Under Secretary of Transportation, saying that his "overriding desire" was "to accept full responsibility for my acts and decisions and to assist in bringing all the facts and circumstances into the open." The

Man 33-year-old former top assistant to John D. Ehrlichman, former domestic adviser to

in the

News

President Nixon, assumed the Transportation Department post Feb. 2. In leaving, he said that he was "making truth my guide." In his long letter of resignation, addressed to Mr. Nixon but released by the Transportation Department, he gave one of the fullest statements of motivation that have been forthcoming from any of those involved in the incidents growing out of the Watergate affair.

Without referring directly to the break-in at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, which he has previously admitted authorizing, Mr. Krogh wrote:

"Under the circumstances which prevailed in the summer of 1971 [the time of the break-in] and based on the best information available to me at the time, I believed that my decision was dictated inescapably by the vital national security interests of the United States.

"I see now 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."

Mr. Krogh's acknowledgment of moral issues seems much in character with his reputation. Three persons who know him described him as "straight as an arrow." All three also cited his deep religious convictions. He is a Christian Scientist, like Mr. Ehrlichman, who was his immediate superior and a partner in the Seattle, Wash., law firm for which Mr. Krogh worked when he was a law student.

Egil Krogh Jr (pronounced Eejil Krogue) was born in Chicago on Aug. 3, 1939, and graduated from Principia College, a Christian Science institution in Elmhurst, Ill., in 1961. From 1962 through 1965 he served in the Navy as a communications officer and then went on to law school at the University of Washington and work in the Seattle law firm of Hullin, Ehrlichman, Roberts & Hodge. In 1968 he received his law



Associated Press

"Almost a caricature of the dynamic executive."

degree and joined a Stanford University Research Institute team studying Vietnamese land reform for the Agency for International Development. And the next year, in May, Mr. Krogh, who has a wife and two children, came to Washington as deputy counsel to the President.

A few months later, in November, he was promoted to deputy assistant to the President for domestic affairs, working closely with Mr. Ehrlichman, whom some observers say he somewhat resembles in style.

His other White House jobs, until he was nominated to the Transportation post by Mr. Nixon last December, included that of assistant director of the Domestic Council staff, executive director of the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control and the White House liaison with the District of Columbia government.

A man who worked with him in the last post recalled him today as "one of these caricatures of the brisk, polite, young, dynamic executive—he had all the facts, he'd done his homework, never mused, never damped, absolutely spic and span, but very pleasant."

The man added, "He seemed to have a sort of controlled impatience," to be perpetually wishing that everyone would move and speak a little more rapidly, "but he never let it get out of hand."

Mr. Krogh was reportedly, "never heavy-handed about coming from the White House," although "he seemed to have a really good pipeline into the upper reaches—you weren't dealing with an underling."

He was, said someone else who knew him only slightly, "sort of like a junior Ehrlichman—a glutton for hard work, a devout Christian Scientist who neither drank nor smoked, nervous of publicity."