

Krogh's 1969 Vow: 'Destroy' Nixon Foes

By Jean Heller

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Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr., the Nixon administration official who resigned Wednesday amidst the Watergate-Pentagon Papers web of scandal, once threatened to destroy anyone who opposed President Nixon's policies.

The threat was made to a prominent doctor who had told Krogh he would not support legislation that would have created a permanent White House office to deal with narcotics traffic and drug abuse.

"Well, don't worry, Doc," Krogh is quoted as replying. "Anyone who opposes us we'll destroy. As a matter of fact, anyone who doesn't support us we'll destroy."

Krogh could not be reached for comment.

The doctor involved was Daniel X. Freedman, chairman of the department of psychiatry at the University of Chicago and well-known authority on psychopharmacology, the study of the effect of drugs on mental states.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Freedman confirmed the 1970 incident and said that, while he doubted that the threat endangered him, he was uneasy about it for a long time.

"Maybe that's just the way these people talk," Freedman said. "I do think the language was excessive. I remember thinking at the

time that Krogh was referring to destruction of people in Congress who opposed the President rather than to destruction of me, but I was very uneasy about the thing for several years.

"I didn't want to get hurt nor did I want anyone associated with me hurt. I was so uneasy because I just couldn't be certain what he had in mind."

According to Freedman and several other sources who independently confirmed the story, the incident had its roots in 1969 when Mr. Nixon asked for, and the Senate unanimously passed, the Controlled Substances Act. The bill gave the Attorney General sole authority to decide what drugs were dangerous, who could use them and who could do research with them.

Freedman, as head of the Committee of Effective Drug Abuse Legislation, argued that the bill put too much power in one man's hands. The group, lobbying in the House, got the bill modified to say that the secretary of health, education and welfare would be included in those decisions.

Freedman said he knew Krogh as an aide to John D. Ehrlichman, special assistant to Mr. Nixon for domestic affairs.