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**KROGH PLEADS 5TH
AT HOUSE INQUIRY**

**Ex-Aide to Haldeman Is the
First Watergate Witness
to Invoke Amendment**

By **MARJORIE HUNTER**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 17 — Egil Krogh Jr., a former White House aide, invoked the Fifth Amendment today, refusing to answer any questions about the Watergate affair.

Of the dozens of witnesses called before several Watergate investigating panels on Capitol Hill in recent months, he was the first to invoke the constitutional guarantee against being required to give testimony that might incriminate himself.

Obviously ill at ease, Mr. Krogh walked into the House Armed Services subcommittee hearing room in midmorning, accompanied by his attorney, Stephen Shulman. They emerged from the closed hearing less than an hour later and refused comment.

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, chairman of the subcommittee, said later that Mr. Krogh had invoked the Fifth Amendment in response to 50 questions, answering only routine questions about his personal and professional background.

Mr. Krogh, once a top assistant to H. R. Haldeman, former chief of staff to President Nixon, was head of the so-called "plumbers' group" set up at the White House in 1971 to investigate security leaks.

One of the jobs carried out by the plumbers was the burglarizing of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in Beverly Hills, Calif., in September of that year.

At that time, the White House was investigating Dr. Ellsberg's release of the secret Pentagon papers dealing with United States involvement in Southeast Asia.

John W. Dean 3d, former counsel to the President, told the Senate's special Watergate investigating committee in May that Mr. Krogh had told him that orders for the break-in "had come right out of the Oval Office."

Today, after readily answering questions about his background, Mr. Krogh sat silently as the questioning moved into the area of the Watergate affair.

"Did you tell Mr. Dean that the order from the break-in [of the psychiatrist's office] came from the Oval Office?" Mr. Nedzi said he had asked.

"Mr. chairman, I refuse to answer the question on the grounds it might tend to in-



Associated Press
Egil Krogh Jr. waiting to appear at the House hearing yesterday. At left is Stephen N. Shulman, his lawyer.

criminate me," Mr. Krogh allegedly replied. He gave the same reply to these other questions, according to Mr. Nedzi.

Did he recommend G. Gordon Liddy to Mr. Dean to be hired as an attorney in the reelection committee's intelligence operation?

Did he know Charles L. Colson, another former White House aide?

How were the "plumbers" recruited? Who did the "plumbers" report to? Who knew about the break-in? How was their work funded?

In explaining his client's invoking of the Fifth Amendment, Mr. Shulman told the subcommittee that Mr. Krogh was under investigation by a grand jury in Los Angeles that is looking into the break-in at the psychiatrist's office and by another grand jury in Washington looking into the break-in of the Democratic National Committee's office in the Watergate complex a year ago.

Mr. Krogh also invoked the Fifth Amendment recently before the Los Angeles grand jury.

Invoking of the Fifth Amendment is not considered an admission of guilt.

Assistant to Haldeman

A one-time employe in the Seattle law office of John D. Ehrlichman, former domestic affairs counselor to President Nixon, Mr. Krogh came to Washington in May, 1969, as deputy counsel to the Presi-

dent and later was named assistant to Mr. Haldeman.

He became Under Secretary of the Department of Transportation early this year, by Presidential appointment, but resigned May 9 after the Watergate affair began unfolding.

In his letter of resignation to Mr. Nixon, Mr. Krogh said 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."

During the last few months, the Nedzi subcommittee has heard from nearly 20 witnesses — including Mr. Ehrlichman, Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Colson — in investigating involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate affair.

The subcommittee will hear tomorrow from David R. Young Jr., a former White House aide who allegedly asked the C.I.A. to prepare a psychological profile on Dr. Ellsberg. Mr. Dean is to appear before the panel on Thursday.

The final witness this week will be Mr. Liddy, one of the convicted Watergate conspirators. He has not yet appeared before any of the Congressional committees investigating the Watergate affair and has refused to divulge anything to the grand jury or the courts.