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# Plea by 'Plumber'

## Krogh's Denial in Ellsberg Break-in

Los Angeles

Former White House aide Egil Krogh Jr. pleaded innocent of the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist yesterday.

He said that he believes the activities of the undercover White House "plumbers squad" were a mistake and that he regrets them.

Krogh was one of four former White House aides named in the four-count indictment, which was made public at the arraignment. Also named were Krogh's former boss, John D. Ehrlichman, David Young and convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy.

Ehrlichman, who was President Nixon's chief adviser for domestic affairs, has sent word he will surrender Tuesday, the deadline set by the judge for voluntary appearances.

The indictment named four other men as co-conspirators in the California break-in, but those four were not indicted. They were Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt and Bernard Barker, and two Cuban nationals, Eugenio Martinez and Felipe DeDiego.

### UNIT

Krogh, who had previously refused to speak out, said he had decided to talk publicly on "my relation, or lack thereof, to the special unit that was formed in 1971 by the President.

"I distinctly feel now that the decision that was made in 1971 to go forward with the covert operation was a mistake," Krogh told report-

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ers outside the courtroom where he entered his plea on charges of burglary conspiracy and solicitation to commit burglary.

He was the first of the four named in the indictment to surrender.

"I felt it was a mistake

immediately thereafter when details of its execution were presented to me," Krogh said, apparently referring to the Sept. 3, 1971 break-in in Beverly Hills.

"I have some real regrets over what has taken place in terms of injuring innocent persons."

However, he added, "At the time in 1971 when this job was presented to me as something of extraordinary national importance, I understood it was fully authorized and lawful."

### QUIZ

He had not answered questions concerning the break-in when called before the county grand jury and investigating committees in Washington. On those occasions, Krogh invoked Fifth Amendment protection against self incrimination.

He said yesterday he had been waiting for a "more appropriate time" to state his opinions.

Krogh was released on his own recognizance and was privately driven to the Los Angeles county jail to be booked, fingerprinted and photographed before returning to Washington, D.C., where he lives with his wife and two children.

He asked that he not be required to return to Los Angeles for all pretrial hearings because of the cost of coast-to-coast travel and the judge approved the appearance of his attorney, Stephen Shulman, in his place.

Krogh, who resigned as undersecretary of transportation after the break-in became known, earlier gave Ellsberg's Pentagon Papers trial judge a sworn affidavit admitting his role in planning the entry at the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis

Fielding

It was revealed during the Ellsberg trial that Fielding's office was ransacked by members of the plumbers squad in an apparent effort to get Ellsberg's psychiatric files. After the break-in was disclosed, charges against Ellsberg and Anthony Russo were dismissed on grounds of government misconduct.

Associated Press



AP Wirephoto

Ex-White House aide Egil Krogh Jr. made his way past newsmen to be arraigned at the Los Angeles Criminal Courts building