

# Krogh Pleads Not Guilty In Ellsberg Break-In Case

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LOS ANGELES, Sept. 6  
Egil Krogh Jr., former White House aide, entered a plea of not guilty immediately after his surrender today in Los Angeles for arraignment on charges stemming from his alleged participation in a burglary scheme to obtain Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatric files.

With the surrender of Mr. Krogh, 34 years old, came a confirmation by the district attorney's office that a secret grand jury indictment handed down late Tuesday charged John D. Ehrlichman, former White House adviser for domestic affairs, with conspiracy, burglary and perjury. Also included in the four-count indictment were David R. Young Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, who were members of the White House "plumbers" squad. The unit, which was headed by Mr. Krogh and operated under the supervision of Mr. Ehrlichman, engineered the Sept. 3, 1971 burglary into the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The indictment lists 16 overt acts detailing the burglary itself and cites a July 8, 1973, denial before the grand jury of prior knowledge as perjured testimony on the part of Mr. Ehrlichman.

Named as co-conspirators, but not indicted, were E. Howard Hunt Jr. and Bernard L. Barker, Watergate conspirators, and two Cuban nationals, Eugenio Martinez and Felipe DeDiego.

Mr. Krogh, who was released on his own recognizance after entering his plea before Superior Court Judge James G. Kolts, stopped in the corridor to speak to a throng of reporters before proceeding to the county jail where he was booked by the sheriff's office.

## First Public Criticism

"I distinctly feel now that the decision that was made in 1971 to go forward with the covert operation was a mistake," said the square-jawed former aide to Mr. Ehrlichman.

"I felt it was a mistake immediately thereafter when details of its execution were presented to me," he continued solemnly, apparently referring to the Labor Day weekend burglary in Beverly Hills. "I have some real regrets over what has taken place in terms of injuring innocent persons."

He added, however, "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."

It was the first time that Mr. Krogh had spoken out publicly against the activities of

the plumbers unit which was formed by the White House in 1971 to plug security leaks after the release of the Pentagon papers.

Although he declined to answer questions, he indicated that one of his legal defenses would be that he was told the break-in was for an "urgent security purpose."

"The subject does raise profound constitutional issues," he added.

It was also the first time he acknowledged in public that President Nixon had personally ordered the indormation of the undercover unit. He had made similar statements, however, in a sworn affidavit made public during the Pentagon papers trial here.

Mr. Krogh invoked the Fifth Amendment when he appeared before grand juries here and in Washington.

Mr. Krogh, who resigned as Under Secretary of Transportation after his involvement in the burglary was disclosed during the trial of Dr. Ellsberg, was charged with burglary, conspiracy and solicitation to commit burglary.

He is the first of four former White House employes expected to surrender by Tuesday. On that day, Mr. Ehrlichman is scheduled for arraignment here.

According to the district attorney's office, Mr. Young is expected to appear tomorrow although plans for his appearance have not been made final.

The authorities were still preparing papers for the transfer of Liddy here from Washington where he is serving a sentence for his conviction in the Watergate break-in.

At the request of the defense, Judge Kolts excused Mr. Krogh from appearing at certain procedural hearings because of the cost of coast-to-coast flights, and approved the appearance of Stephen Shulman, his attorney, in his place. Mr. Krogh lives in Washington with his wife and two children.

California has a statute that states the defendant has the right to trial within 60 days after surrender. However, the district attorney's office said that pretrial motions could be filed, which could delay the trial date.