

# Krogh Establishes a Defense Fund and

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LOS ANGELES, Sept. 13—Egil Krogh Jr., contending that he "did not commit a crime," has established a legal defense fund like that of Daniel Ellsberg, the man he held a White House mandate to investigate. "I really feel in my heart that this is the right thing to do," the former White House domestic aide said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C. "When you have done what you thought was best at the time, for national security, then it is right to have that defense put forward as effectively as possible," he said, "and a good defense is an expensive defense."

Thus the Bud Krogh Defense Fund. James Morand, who Mr. Krogh said is "a very close personal friend who works in a manufacturing company," is setting up the fund from his home in Danville, Ill. The address is P.O. Box 1066, Danville. Mr. Krogh was indicted last week by a Los Angeles County grand jury on charges of burglary and conspiracy and solicitation of two Watergate conspirators, E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, to commit burglarly at the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Dr. Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, on Sept. 3, 1971.

He faces possible additional charges for the same felonies, two of which carry one-to-14-year prison sentences, from a Federal grand jury investigating the Watergate break-in.

### Monitored by Attorney

Mr. Krogh, preparing his defense from his Washington home, spoke at length in his first interview since he resigned last May as Under Secretary of Transportation. He told of his life since the dramatic disclosure of the Fielding break-in during the Pentagon papers trial of Dr. Ellsberg and he answered questions that were monitored by his attorney. "You can go through a lot of soul-searching and read all the news reports, and develop a sense of guilt that makes it almost impossible to live every day," Mr. Krogh said. "But the hindsight we have gained is not really relevant to



Associated Press

Egil Krogh Jr., former assistant to John D. Ehrlichman

that man in 1971. And that is the man I'm defending."

Mr. Krogh said he had used his time to get to know his family better and to do some reading, and some work he was not able to do under the pressures of the White House job.

"I've done quite a bit of reading, from the Old Testament about individuals that faced some difficult circumstances — Paul, Peter, Jacob and others that faced crises, some of their own making and some which came totally unexpectedly," he said. "It helps to keep my thinking in the right direction."

And he has hiked and gone to the woods with his son Peter, 8 years old. "For the first time, I can go to soccer practices and we can run together," Mr. Krogh said. He said that he still jogs (he has run up to five miles a day)

and hopes to compete in a Washington group known as the Road Runners.

Of the effect of his own troubles on his sons, Mr. Krogh said: "Matthew [3 years old] is too young to understand. But I have sat down with Peter and tried to explain as best I can."

"Although his think has been influenced by what his friends talk to him about, he doesn't see it as a big problem yet. That he likes is that I'm there more than ever before."

Mr. Krogh headed the White House "plumbers' squad" that was made public last May by Federal District Court Judge William Maahew Byrne Jr.

Mr. Krogh has depicted the White House team as acting in national security interests to obtain the psychiatric files of Dr. Ellsberg following public

disclosure of the secret papers.

At his arraignment in Los Angeles last week Mr. Krogh said that he now believed the burglary was a mistake.

Elaborating on that statement yesterday, he said: "I felt immediately thereafter, when I saw some of the photographs, that it was probably an unnecessary step to take, and—as a policy matter—it was a mistake."

Today, at 34, Mr. Krogh faces possible disbarment as a lawyer and possible long-term prison sentences from local or Federal indictments. He has been unemployed since last May and has little hope for employment while under the taint of prosecution.

He is living on the retirement money accrued during his four and one-half years in the Administration, money he hopes will support his family through the end of the year.

But Mr. Krogh refused to see himself as part of the general Watergate milieu and set about making positive plans for his future.

"They have been unfairly lumped together," he said, referring to the Watergate incident and the work of the "plumbers" group.

"To me the work of the special unit was focused principally on national security," he said. "That term has been so badly abused during the past few months that it has very little meaning. But it had a very important meaning to me at the time."

"The Watergate event to me was one that was exclusively political," he added. "It would be very difficult to subscribe any national security in the Watergate affair."

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Asserts He 'Did Not Commit a Crime'