

White House

'Plumber'

Indicted

Washington

Egil Krogh Jr., former chief of the White House "plumbers" unit, was indicted by a federal grand jury yesterday for giving false testimony in 1972 about the covert activities of Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy.

Krogh, already under indictment in Los Angeles in connection with a burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, was cited for two counts of giving "false material declarations" to the Watergate grand jury Aug. 28, 1972.

The indictment, the first obtained by special prosecutor Archibald Cox, was returned by the foreman for the Watergate grand jury to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica in open court. Cox indicated there would be more indictments, but refused to say when.

TELL

Krogh, 34, was charged in the indictment with failing to tell the grand jury that he knew Hunt and Liddy had gone to the West Coast during the Labor Day weekend in 1971 to secure information from the psychiatrist's office after Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon papers. Krogh since has admitted ordering the burglary.

Facing a maximum penal-

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ty, if convicted, of a \$10,000 fine and five years in jail on each count, Krogh was the first person to be indicted by the Watergate grand jury since last year when Hunt and Liddy were charged among the original seven in connection with the break-in at Democratic headquarters.

Two Nixon campaign aides recently pleaded guilty to reduced charges resulting from the Watergate investigation.

SWORN

The indictment apparently

did not involve Krogh's personal testimony but a sworn deposition given privately to prosecutors and passed along to the grand jury. He was one of five witnesses to present testimony in that way rather than undergo grand jury questioning — a practice criticized by some members of the Senate Watergate Committee.

Krogh, who was forced to quit a Transportation Department job last May when his role in the Ellsberg break-in was revealed, also was indicted September 4 by a Los Angeles grand jury in connection with the burglary. His co-defendants in that indictment were Liddy and former White House aides John Ehrlichman and David R. Young.

Legal experts said the charge of giving "false material declarations" is essentially the same as perjury, but it is easier to prove and carries a heavier maximum penalty.

TRAVEL

The new indictment charges that Krogh answered "no" when asked if he had "any knowledge of any travel that Mr. Hunt made in connection with the Pentagon papers." It said he told the grand jury that Liddy made one trip to California on a customs and narcotics matter, but he knew of no other trips nor any other reason for making such a trip.

The "plumbers" unit was established in the White House in 1971 to plug security leaks and particularly to determine how the Pentagon papers were obtained by Ellsberg, who handed them over to the press.

Earlier in the day Cox asked Sirica to deny motions for bail for Hunt and four Cuban-Americans who pleaded guilty of burglarizing the Democrats' Watergate offices. He said Hunt's knowledge of the use of aliases and phony credentials "would increase immeasurably the risk of flight."

Hunt and the Cubans also



AP Wirephoto

EGIL KROGH JR.
Perjury charges.

have asked permission to change their original guilty pleas. Cox said those petitions should be resolved before the Cubans' request for release is heard.

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