

A 'Plumber'

Pleads

Innocent

Washington

Egil Krogh Jr., former head of the White House "plumbers," pleaded innocent yesterday to two counts of lying before the original Watergate federal grand jury.

During an eight-minute arraignment, U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell released Krogh on his personal recognizance but told him not to leave the country.

Krogh, 34, resigned as transportation undersecretary in May after acknowledging he had responsibility for a break-in by his "plumbers" at the office of Pentagon papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in Los Angeles during Labor Day weekend in 1971.

"I am confident of my innocence and I look forward to proving it," Krogh told reporters yesterday.

His lawyer, Stephen Shulman, chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during the Johnson administration, told reporters that Krogh's defense would be tied in with an "action group organization in the White House that dealt with matters of the highest national security."

The "plumbers" was the nickname given the White House special investigations unit established in 1971 after publication of the Pentagon papers, on origins of the Vietnam war, to help plug news leaks in the administration.

Krogh was indicted by the second Watergate grand jury one week ago in connection with testimony he had given about travels of two other members of the "plumbers," E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy.

On Aug. 28, 1972, according to the indictment, Krogh was asked by the grand jury whether he was aware of trips to California by Hunt and Liddy.

"No," Krogh testified several times.

United Press