

Krogh Ordered To Stand Trial

Washington

A federal judge yesterday refused to dismiss criminal charges against Egil Krogh Jr., who headed the clandestine White House "plumbers" unit.

The decision, handed down in a written opinion by U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, cleared the way for Krogh to be tried on two counts of making false declarations — similar to perjury — in connection with a Watergate grand jury's investigation of plumbers unit activities.

Gesell said he would set a trial date on November 26 after meeting with representatives of the Watergate special prosecution force and Krogh's attorneys.

Gesell heard three hours of arguments Tuesday on several pretrial motions filed by Krogh, including a request that he be granted access to a series of Presi-

dent Nixon's tapes and documents involving the work of the White House special investigations unit. The unit came to be known as the plumbers because it was initially set up by the President to track down the sources of sensitive news leaks.

Krogh's lawyers argued that the charges should be thrown out of court because Krogh was ordered to maintain the secrecy of the plumbers, even if it meant lying under oath. Attorney Stephen N. Shulman indicated that the orders may have come from Mr. Nixon himself.

In his opinion, Gesell rejected the argument by saying that Krogh "had no license to testify falsely under oath."

Gesell said Krogh's false testimony "must be presumed to . . . have substantially affected" the grand jury's investigation.

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