

'Plumber' Guilty, Hints He'll Talk

Egil Krogh Jr., who headed the special White House investigation unit known as "The Plumbers," pleaded guilty yesterday to a civil rights charge growing out of the 1971 office burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

All other charges against him were dropped and he told U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gessell here that he intends to cooperate with the Watergate special prosecutor after he is sentenced.

The plumbers operation is believed to be one of the most sensitive areas of the entire Watergate investigation, coming close to President Nixon himself.

Krogh pleaded guilty to having committed seven overt acts that constituted "conspiracy against rights of citizens" under civil rights legislation, specifically the rights of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding.

He had also been charged with two counts of perjury for false statements before the Watergate grand jury and had been indicted in California, under state law, on burglary and conspiracy charges in connection with the break-in.

The District Attorney said that he would move Monday to dismiss the state charges.

Krogh, in an unusual move, has insisted that he be sentenced before offering any cooperation so that it will not look as though he is seeking favor from the courts for his cooperation.

On May 22, the President

Back Page Col. 6

From Page 1

stated that he personally instructed Krogh to have the plumbers unit "find out all it could about Mr. Ellsberg's associates and his motives."

The President said that "because of the extreme



AP Wirephoto

EGIL KROGH JR. Seven overt acts

gravity of the situation, and not then knowing what additional national secrets Mr. Ellsberg might disclose, I did impress upon Mr. Krogh the vital importance to the national security of his assignments."

Ellsberg had been indicted for allegedly supplying a top-secret study of the Vietnam war to the press in what became known as the Pentagon papers case.

In the search for psychological background on Ellsberg, Krogh is said to have ordered two members of his unit, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., to break into the psychiatrist's office.

Mr. Nixon stated he neither authorized nor had knowledge of "any illegal means used to achieve this goal," although adding that "as President, I must and do assume responsibility for such actions."

He said he had put "emphasis on the crucial importance of protecting national security."

Krogh, in a short statement read in court yesterday, stated in part:

"The sole basis for my defense was to have been that I acted in the interest of national security. However, upon serious and lengthy reflection, I now feel that the

sincerity of my motivation cannot justify what was done and that I cannot in conscience assert national security as a defense.

"I am therefore pleading guilty because I have no defense to that charge.

"My coming to this point today stems from my asking myself what ideas I wanted to stand for, what I wanted to represent to myself and to my family and to be identified with for the rest of my experience.

"I simply feel that what was done in the Ellsberg operation was in violation of what I perceive to be a fundamental idea in the character of this country — the paramount importance of the rights of the individual.

"I don't want to be associated with that violation any longer by attempting to defend it."

New York Times