

Krogh Sentenced to Jail

--Denies Any Nixon Role

JAN 25 1974

He Tells Of Ellsberg Break-In

SFCronicle
Washington

Egil Krogh Jr., repentant but asking no favors, was sentenced yesterday to serve six months in prison for his part in the Ellsberg case burglary.

He said President Nixon did not authorize the burglary "directly or indirectly."

Krogh, supervisor of the White House agents who broke into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, thus discounted reports that his marching orders had come "right out of the Oval Office."

He said he had only one contact with President Nixon on the work of the special investigations unit known as the "plumbers." In "that meeting Dr. Ellsberg's name did not appear to be mentioned," Krogh said.

But he said that John D. Ehrlichman, then the President's domestic adviser and Krogh's superior, gave the unit authority to engage in "covert activity to obtain information on Dr. Ellsberg."

The precise nature of that authorization and the extent to which it covered the break-in are matters to be decided by the courts, Krogh said.

There had been reports that Krogh would drop a bombshell yesterday in the continuing investigation of the Watergate scandals. But a 12-page statement by Krogh that was distributed to newsmen contained nothing explosive.

Ehrlichman, David Young

and G. Gordon Liddy are scheduled to go on trial in Los Angeles in April on state charges in the case.

Krogh had pleaded guilty on November 30 to a single count of conspiracy to violate the rights of Dr. Lewis Fielding, the psychiatrist who had been treating Ellsberg. Fielding's office was broken into Sept. 3, 1971, by Liddy and three others.

Krogh could have been sentenced to ten years in

Back Page Col. 7

From Page 1

prison and fined \$10,000.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, in pronouncing sentence, said Krogh needed no rehabilitation but "any punishment short of jail would, in the court's view, be inadequate."

He then imposed a term of two to six years, saying Krogh would serve six months and be on supervised probation for two years thereafter.

Gesell said "apart from this offense" Krogh's public service had been exceptional and added:

"A wholly improper illegal task was assigned to you by higher authority."

Krogh said, "I would like to assure the court whatever sentence you deem appropriate for me to serve, I will serve it as well and as honorably as I can."

Krogh was given ten days to get his affairs in order.

The Bureau of Prison will determine where the sentence will be served.

After court, Krogh's lawyers distributed a 12-page statement in which he outlined the circumstances that led to the Sept. 3, 1971 burglary.

Krogh said that shortly after the New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers, he was asked to look into the leak.

"Because Dr. Daniel Ells-

berg had been identified as responsible . . . he was to be a vital part of the inquiry," the statement said. "Specifically, his motivations, his possible collaborators and his potential for further disclosures were to be determined."

Krogh said the CIA had theorized that since the New York Times, which published the papers, had only a partial set, the Soviet Embassy might have gotten the full set.

On July 24, a day after the New York Times published the fallback position of the United States in the Strategic Arms Limitation talks in Helsinki, Krogh said he was summoned to the President's office.

He said Mr. Nixon appeared deeply troubled and directed the plumbers to investigate the latest leak.

"His intense determina-

tion was evident," Krogh said. "He instructed further leaks would not be allowed and made me feel personally responsible for carrying out this instruction."

Then began a campaign of giving lie detector tests and other investigations, Krogh said. "The intensity of the national security concern expressed by the President fired up and overshadowed every aspect of the unit's work," Krogh said.

"It was in this context that the Fielding incident, the break-in into the offices of Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist, took place."

He said that undoubtedly that was the basis of former White House counsel John Deans' testimony to the Watergate committee that Krogh told him instructions for the break-in had come from the Oval office.

"In fact, the July 24 meeting was the only direct contact I had with the President on the work of the unit. I have just listened to a tape of that meeting and Dr. Ellsberg's name did not appear to be mentioned," Krogh said.

He added:

"I had been led to believe by the White House statement of May 22, 1973, that the President had given me instructions regarding Dr. Ellsberg in the July 24, 1971, meeting. It must be that those instructions were relayed to me by Mr. Ehrlichman.

"In any event, I received no specific instruction or authority whatsoever regarding the break-in from the President, directly or indirectly."

Associated Press



AP Wirephoto

EGIL (BUD) KROGH (LEFT) AND HIS LAWYER, STEVEN SHULMAN
Krogh said John Ehrlichman gave 'plumbers' authority for 'covert activity'