

NYTimes

FEB 4 1974

# Trying to Explain to a Young Son Why His Father Must Go to Jail

By EDWARD B. FISKE  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON—"To an 8-year-old, jail is a scary word," said Egil Krogh Jr. "You can't be too analytical. You talk about right and wrong. You try to explain that his father has to go to jail to make clear what is right."

Today Mr. Krogh is scheduled to surrender to a United States marshal here and begin serving a six-month term in the Federal Prison Camp in Allenwood, Pa. A member of the so-called "plumbers" group at the White House, he pleaded guilty Nov. 30 to a civil rights charge growing out of the 1971 break-in at the office of the psychiatrist of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg.

How does a man who only a year ago was riding high as one of the bright and powerful young men of the Nixon Administration face the prospect of a prison term?

Last week the 33-year-old Mr. Krogh sat in his lawyer's office here and reflected on how he and his family—his wife, Sue, and their two sons, Matthew, 8, and Peter, 4—had dealt with the question.

"You spend as much time as possible with your family,"

said Mr. Krogh, who has dark hair and handsomely chisled features and was wearing a conservative blue suit and tie.

"The boys and I would pack sandwiches and cookies and go off in the afternoons and on weekends to a spot we liked about a mile away in Rock Creek Park," he said. "We named all the trees. We sat under Lookout. There was Alwyn, which was named after a Walt Disney character, and three burned ones that we called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego."

Mrs. Krogh said that Peter is too young to understand the situation, but that, despite thoughtful efforts by his teachers and others, it posed some problems for Matthew.

## Had to Risk Prison

"Once, when Sue and I were out, he was watching television and heard that I was exposed to a 10-year sentence," he recalled. "When we came home we found him crying in his bed. I had to tell him that it wouldn't necessarily be that long. The day I was sentenced I called him up and said, 'Guess what, it's only six months. Isn't that great?' He said, 'Yeah, that's great.'"

Mr. Krogh said that the

critical element, for himself and his wife, was the decision to plead guilty.

"We explored various possible defenses, like national security, and the possibility that I could have escaped by some fluke—because of sympathy or the articulateness of the attorney," he said.

"But Sue and I decided that nothing was more imprisoning than being locked into a wrong idea. My concept of national security had been wrong. If I had won the case on that defense, I would have been identified with that idea the rest of my life. I had to expose myself to a prison sentence to find real freedom."

The decision to plead guilty was made over Thanksgiving in Colonial Williamsburgh, where a friend had lent them his home for the weekend.

"We went down there in the Volvo with the bicycles in the back," he recalled. "Riding around past the Hous of Burgesses and all I began to think how the country was designed to protect each individual. How could I continue to defend conduct that had stripped another person of his constitutional rights?"

Mr. Krogh said that became a way of explaining

the situation to Matthew. "I told him that there are certain things that he as an American boy is able to do that other boys can't because there are certain laws that have to be followed.

"I said that I thought I was serving my country, but that in the last few months I came to see that I had really hurt it. I told him that I felt I had broken the law and that it was fair and necessary for me to go to jail in order to show what is right and wrong."

## Advice From Hunt

Mr. Krogh and his wife are both practicing Christian Scientists, and he said that their faith was an important tool in confronting their problems. "I read a lot about what the Bible says about freedom," he said.

Religion was important in helping to prepare the children for the absence of their father. "We believe in a Father-Mother god," he said. "They know that this is the source of their protection."

Mr. Krogh's situation posed numerous practical problems for the family. He has been out of work since May 10, when he resigned as Undersecretary of Transportation, and his wife has been working part-time as a teacher at



CBS News Photo

Egil Krogh Jr. and his wife, Sue, being interviewed by Mike Wallace, the television newscaster

St. Aiden's Montessorie School, which the children attend.

"The day I pleaded guilty, she was offered a full-time teaching job," he said. "Our sentences run concurrently."

Bills from his three lawyers are more than \$100,000, but a former neighbor, James fense fund. Mr. Morand, who lives in Danville, Ill., said last week that the fund now has half of this total in cash or pledges, including a number of contributions from lawyers who never knew Mr. Krogh personally.

The day before sentencing Mr. Krogh arranged for Sue to have power of attorney to conduct family affairs. While testifying recently at a grand jury hearing, he said, he ran into E. Howard Hunt, a convicted Watergate figure, who gave him some practical tips about life in Allenwood.

"He knows I'm a jogger and said that I should look up a Japanese-American prisoner who manages to jog 20 miles a day," he said. "He also said that the food is awful."

During recent months Mr.

Krogh said that he had to deal with numerous fears—of debts, of being apart from his family, of homosexual or other assaults in prison—but that the essential corrections of his decision to acknowledge his errors and face prison head on gave him confidence. "I am persuaded that I will do whatever is required of me in prison and that I will be protected," he said.

His sentence runs until Aug. 4, but Mr. Krogh said that he had been advised that the prisoners can get

five days a month off for good behaviour and declared, "I intend to be very good." This would get him out on July 4, he said.

Mr. Krogh said that, for all the pain of the last 10 months, it has been a time of growing, especially between himself and his wife. "She hasn't run away from anything," he said. "We've gotten closer and closer."

"It's been a terrible trial," he continued, "but I guess you could say it's one way to develop character." He paused, and then he added, "but I don't recommend it."