

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 17, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: LEN GARMENT
 RAY PRICE

FROM: DAVE GERGEN *DG*

This is something I would personally like to do, although I feel that I cannot express my true feelings. I would appreciate your views on its propriety and contents.

The letter should be mailed Friday.

Thanks.

Dear Judge Gessel:

This letter is an appeal that leniency be shown next week in the sentencing of Egil Krogh, Jr.

I must confess to you that I have only the knowledge of a newspaper reader regarding the facts in this case. The other activities of the so-called "plumbers" are also unknown to me.

As a colleague of Bud's at the White House over a two-year period, I do feel, however, that I can speak on Bud's many other activities within the Government. More than anyone else in this Administration, Bud was personally responsible for advancing the cause of Home Rule for the District of Columbia. Had it not been for him, I would question whether the necessary compromises could have been achieved that have been the foundation for recent

Home Rule legislation. Bud was also extremely effective in helping to set up a strong anti-narcotics program at the Federal level. The success which the Nation has had over the past two years in combatting heroin is due at least in small part to Bud's personal efforts. It can also be said with some justification that Bud has contributed to the formulation of new criminal laws and antitrust policies within the Government.

These were not minor achievements for a young man of Bud's age. More importantly, they were not accomplished simply because Bud is bright and efficient. He is both of those, but the accomplishments stemmed far more from a sense of dedication, a fine character, and a relentless pursuit of what he conceived to be the best interests of the Nation. Bud has a driving idealism that infected many of the young people in the Administration. They looked up to him, and what they saw they believed to be good.

I personally regard Bud as one of the tragic figures in Watergate, not one of the villains. And his case cries out for compassion, not for severity.

No one I know would be more prepared to accept a harsh punishment for misdeeds than Bud Krogh. He would be the first to argue that the criminal law must help to set an example so that others will not come that way again. But he has already suffered a great deal, as has his family. He has amply shown by his actions that one other great purpose of the criminal law -- rehabilitation -- has already been served. The course of justice now would seem to lie not in a lengthy ⁺prison term but in the restoration of Bud to an active, productive place in our society as quickly as possible.

I apologize for troubling you with such a long discourse,
but I know that I speak for many others in asking that you give
favorable consideration to a lenient sentence for this fine young
man.

With every best wish, I am

Yours sincerely,

David R. Gergen