

Burch Resigns White House Job; Will Join District Law Firm

Post 12-3-74

Dean Burch, who for five years was chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and for the past 10 months counselor to the President, yesterday resigned his White House post to join a local law firm.

President Ford accepted Burch's resignation, which had been rumored since the election, with the "deepest regret."

Burch is scheduled to join the law firm of Pierson, Ball and Dowd, which specializes in communication law, after the first of the year. His resignation is effective Dec. 31.

After resigning from the FCC early this year, Burch was asked to join the White House staff, partly because of his ties with the conservative wing of the Republican Party, in the hope that he could help rescue President Nixon from the threat of impeachment.

From February, when he joined the White House staff,



DEAN BURCH

... no successor named

until Mr. Nixon resigned in August, Burch was one of the principal aides working on his Watergate defense.

In his letter to Mr. Ford, Burch referred to that period

with this comment: "You have grasped the falling standard and by generous applications of hard work, wisdom and above all, human sensitivity, have restored this country's faith in the constitutional system."

White House press secretary Ron Nessen denied that Burch had been requested to resign and said his departure had nothing to do with the dismal showing Republicans made in last month's elections. He was Mr. Ford's coordinator for the campaign.

The President praised Burch for his "great dedication and energy" and said his services will be "greatly missed."

No successor to Burch has been named, but Nessen said that in about two weeks the President would announce a reorganization of the White House staff, with changes in both personnel and organization.