

FCC Man to Quit--Tired Of Waiting

Washington

Federal Communications Commissioner Nicholas Johnson said yesterday he will resign later this week rather than wait for the Senate to approve President Nixon's nominee to succeed him.

Johnson, in an interview in his home state of Iowa, said he was ready to leave the FCC when his seven-year term expired last July, but said he was asked to stay on until the Senate approved a successor.

That was almost five months ago.

"I was ready to leave in September and suddenly everyone said wait, wait, it (the successor's nomination) is coming any day now. And sure enough the President made that nomination in late September, but he came up with such an abysmal and preposterous proposal for an FCC commissioner that the Senate Commerce Committee simply refused to hold hearings."

Mr. Nixon nominated James Quello, a conservative Democrat and broadcasting executive who contributed to Mr. Nixon's reelection campaign, to succeed Johnson, a staunch Democrat.

Johnson, who is expected to run for Congress in Iowa's third District next year, said he opposes the Quello nomination and wants to resign "to continue to oppose this nomination without appearing to have a conflict of interest."

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