



FCC Room No. 7115 • It's the main entrance to the office of the chairman of the FCC. John C. Doerfer fought hard last week to keep it.



1600 Pennsylvania Ave. • Through this White House gate go kings, dictators, government officials, citizens. John Doerfer did too, intent on prov-

ing his Florida trip was innocent. But even a President's faith in his personal integrity could not help him now, and resignation was suggested.

HOW DOERFER'S HOPES DIED . . .

The resignation of FCC Chairman John C. Doerfer was announced six days, almost to the hour, after he had admitted to the House Oversight Subcommittee that he and his wife were taken to Florida and entertained by George B. Storer.

In that week the pressures built until he could no longer stand against them.

It was between 4 and 5 p.m. March 4, Friday, that Mr. Doerfer, under questioning by Rep. John Moss (D-Calif.), told the story of his Florida vacation (BROADCASTING, March 7). He admitted that he not only had been the guest of Mr. Storer aboard the yacht *Lazy Girl*, as newspapers had reported earlier that week, but that he and Mrs. Doerfer also had been flown to and from Miami in the Storer plane.

Over the weekend of March 5-6 there was a scattering of newspaper comment calling for his resignation (see box page 36). But on Monday, March 7, Mr. Doerfer told friends he was confident that the White House would regard his trip as he regarded it—a harmless social occasion of no political consequence.

On Tuesday, March 8, he learned that some members of the White House staff had taken a more serious view. The next morning he went to the executive headquarters in an effort to settle things. Receiving little assurance from the President's advisors, he asked to see the President himself.

What he wanted from the President was an endorsement. What he got amounted to an invitation to resign.

Interview With Eisenhower • Mr.

Doerfer told the President he thought he was being subjected to unfair criticism by some elements of the press. There was no conflict of interest in his acceptance of Storer hospitality, he said.

He had asked to see the President, he explained to the Chief Executive, because he felt impelled to discuss with him the widespread publicity about the Florida vacation. As the President stated later in his letter accepting Mr. Doerfer's resignation, the President expressed faith in Mr. Doerfer's personal integrity but said that under the circumstances Mr. Doerfer's decision to resign seemed wise.

The President and Mr. Doerfer agreed that Mr. Doerfer would write a statement to be sent to the White House the next day, Thursday. But

he would resign. Both his formal letter of resignation and the President's acceptance were dated the next day. In his formal statement to the President, Mr. Doerfer said:

"I am resigning as a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission and its chairman, effective at

the close of business on March 14, 1960.

"The mandate from Congress which requires a commissioner 'to study new uses for radio and generally encourage the larger and more effective use thereof' requires day-to-day contact with many industry people. A number of

these contacts eventually ripen into social acquaintances, and sometimes friendships, which, despite appearances, do not imperil the integrity of either the government official or the member of the industry.

"I have not, nor will I, waver from my views that the best solution to