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UMTA ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

Arthur E. Teele, Jr., today announced his resignation as Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole said, "I am grateful to Art Teele for his generous public service, his able leadership, and his skillful administration of the Federal public transit program. Art has served with distinction. He has been a real friend to the transit-dependent, and a strong advocate for the nation's transit systems. I wish him well in his new pursuits."

Teele cited his desire to pursue his legal profession as a compelling force in his decision to leave the department. He also expressed an interest in acquiring manufacturing and telecommunications properties with a view toward active participation in the business management of the operation.

Teele noted that minorities traditionally have avoided these industries as off-limits. The Reagan Administration's outstanding efforts to include minorities offer the impetus to enterprising Black entrepreneurs willing to break the barrier and enter these business frontiers. Teele hopes to act as a catalyst in increasing minority involvement in these areas.

"As we have tried to correct these inequities in transportation, America must now recognize and make use of all available human resources to their fullest extent," Teele said.

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In announcing his resignation to return to law practice in Florida, Teele commended President Reagan for his foresight in signing the landmark Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982.

"For the first time in history, mass transportation has a dedicated source of Federal funding as a result of the New Mass Transit Account in the Highway Trust Fund," Teele said.

Teele's accomplishments in the Reagan Administration are manifold. As a campaign volunteer Teele headed the National Black Voters for Reagan/Bush Campaign and later spearheaded the DOT Transition Team.

As UMTA Administrator Teele has channeled millions of dollars for construction of transit facilities, capital improvements in the way of transit malls and joint development projects and the purchase of thousands of vehicles ranging from locomotive engines and subway cars in major cities to vans and small buses for transportation of elderly and handicapped persons in small communities.

Teele has taken major steps to transfer more control to states and cities and to provide the technical assistance needed to carry out a productive, efficient transit program.

"I am pleased," Teele said, "to have been part of the team which truly is bringing about a renaissance in urban American living, stimulated by public transportation."

"Former Secretary Drew Lewis and Secretary Dole have exercised inspiring leadership in turning around the transit industry from a period of declining productivity to one where transit officials and local policymakers from coast to coast have begun to take a hard look at transit costs and performance and, more importantly, to do something about it," Teele said.

Teele's resignation, effective July 10, 1983, ends a term of office which began when he was sworn in to be the Agency's ninth Administrator by Vice President Bush on April 8, 1981.

Teele expressed confidence in the Reagan Administration's concept of "New Federalism" in which he holds strong personal beliefs.

In his letter of resignation Teele recounted his support for the President and encouraged him to run for reelection.

"I stand ready to assist you in every way possible and would be delighted to be involved in your reelection campaign," Teele said.

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