

NEW  
PRESIDENT  
HEADS  
DALLAS FED

Robert D. McTeer, Jr., a 22-year veteran of the Federal Reserve System, became the new president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas after the Jan. 31 retirement of Robert H. Boykin.

McTeer, who has been senior vice president in charge of the Richmond Fed's Baltimore Branch for the past 10 years, is described by those who know him as an outstanding monetary economist and policymaker who will serve the Eleventh Federal Reserve District in an exemplary manner.

With his diverse combination of abilities—his command of economics and eloquent speaking skills—McTeer has the potential to become one of the best presidents in the Federal Reserve System, observers say.

"Bob is extra smart in understanding monetary policy and will be a real powerhouse on the Federal Open Market Committee [FOMC]," said Richmond Fed President Robert Black. "I have no doubt that he will do an outstanding job in representing the Eleventh District on the FOMC." (Presidents of the 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks oversee financial institutions in their jurisdictions and join the seven Fed governors in Washington, D.C., in setting monetary policy. Five of the Fed presidents sit as voting members on the policy-making FOMC at any one time; McTeer will become a voting participant in 1993.)

"He holds many of the same views on monetary policy as his predecessor, Bob Boykin," Black noted. "I don't think there will be a big shift in [the monetary policy] area."

As a leader, McTeer is said to exemplify Southern values in both his personality and his dealings with people. "Bob will fit in well with the personality of the [Southwest]," predicted Chuck Maurice, an economics professor at Texas A&M University and a fellow graduate student with McTeer at the University of Georgia. "He's one of the most likable people I've ever met, and I think the people of the Dallas Fed and those in the community will discover that in a very short time. Aside from the fact that he's extremely intelligent, one of the most admirable qualities is his ability to get along with people. I think the Dallas Fed is fortunate to have such a man as its new leader."

Richard Timberlake, professor emeritus of economics at the University of Georgia and a former mentor and teacher of McTeer, said his one-time student will make "a very good, evenhanded president." "Intellectually, he was among the best [students] I had," he recalled. "He certainly will be able to hold his own on the FOMC."

McTeer, who grew up in the small, rural town of Ranger in northern Georgia, received a doctorate in economics from the University of Georgia, where he served on the faculty



for two years. He joined the Richmond Fed as an economist in the Research Department in 1968. In just three years, he went from editing the major research publication, *Economic Review*, to becoming the administrative officer of the department.

He left the Research Department in 1974 to assume broader management responsibilities, including assignments as assistant to the president and first vice president and later as senior officer of the Bank's Fiscal Agency and Securities Departments. He was chosen to head Richmond's Baltimore Branch in 1980. While serving in Baltimore, he was also an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University.

A newcomer to the region, McTeer plans to spend his first few months in office getting to know people in the financial and business community. "I want our Bank to stand out in the community as a leader and to make a real contribution in the area of economic policy, but before we can do that we must first know what we're

doing and where we're going," he says. "One of my first priorities is to listen and learn and become acquainted with the views and problems of the people in both the Bank and the banking industry."

Because the Dallas Fed is located in the financial center of the Southwest, McTeer believes the Bank is well-positioned to play a leading role in banking and finance in the area. "The long-standing large banks that have been expected to provide leadership in the past have been pretty much decimated and replaced, so I think the burden for the Bank to play a leadership role is strong," he said.

Tom Frost, a member of the Dallas Fed board of directors and chairman of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc., San Antonio, believes McTeer's excellent credentials and experience within the Federal Reserve should stand him in good stead in his new position.

"[McTeer] has a long, successful history within the Federal Reserve System; certainly, he has had good preparation for the job and has a sound economic background," Frost said. "The Richmond Fed is considered one of the best run in the System and [McTeer's] contributions have been extensive.

"One of the reasons we chose him," he added, "was his ability to manage in a continually changing environment while continuing to raise the level of performance both inside [the Bank] and externally in the financial community. As an individual, he strikes me as the kind of leader who will aggressively pursue excellence across the District."

— Kim Ernst