

Boyd admits guilt in plea

HOUSTON, Texas – Former UTU International President Byron A. Boyd Jr. pleaded guilty in federal court here Thursday, March 11, to one criminal count for which he was under indictment. Boyd also has retired from his positions as UTU International president and president of the United Transportation Union Insurance Association (UTUIA).

Boyd, along with former UTU President Charles Little and two former UTUIA employees – Ralph Dennis and John Rookard – were principally charged last year by federal prosecutors with illegally accepting payments from attorneys who handle, or had hoped to handle, personal injury cases involving UTU members.

“Today is a day of great sadness and personal regret,” Boyd said after pleading guilty. “I take full responsibility for my actions and make no excuses. To all I am truly sorry for the anguish I have put you through.”

Documents detailing the indictments and pleas are available on the UTU website, www.utu.org, under “Houston Proceedings.”

Labor leaders offer their support



John Sweeney

President

AFL-CIO



"I want to congratulate you on your assuming the presidency of the United Transportation Union. I am sure that the recent changes within your union have been challenging for you and your other top leadership. I would be glad to meet with you when you are next in Washington, just to get to know each other, and discuss what your thoughts are about the UTU's relationship with the rest of organized labor."



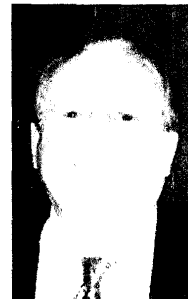
Robert Scardelletti

International President

Transportation
Communications Union



"Paul Thompson is a leader...May God grant him the strength and wisdom to steer the UTU through this very difficult time. Leaders are like eagles. They don't flock, you find them one at a time."



Dewey Garland

Vice President

Sheet Metal Workers
International Association



"I have known Paul Thompson for many years. He is a man of honor and courage who will be a great leader for the UTU. I look forward to working with Paul and the UTU for the benefit of both our organizations and members."