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TOP OF THE WEEK

Mimi Dawson to leave FCC for Transportation Department

If all goes well, Mimi Weyforth Dawson will go from regulating the broadcasting, cable and telephone industries to regulating the airline, trucking and railroad industries within the next few months.

President Reagan tapped the 43-year-old Republican, who has served on the FCC since July 1981, to become deputy secretary of transportation. Reagan named the current deputy, James H. Burnley (left), to succeed Elizabeth Dole as secretary. Dole resigned last month to help her husband, Senator Robert Dole (R-Kan.), in his run for the Republican presidential nomination.

"I know that Jim and Mimi will push ahead even further on such critical issues as airline safety, privatization of public transportation, space commercialization and industry and general transportation safety," Reagan said at a White House ceremony last Thursday. "And that list represents a tall order for both of them."

The two have not yet been formally nominated, but, once they are, they are expected to win Senate confirmation within a few months. Burnley may have some trouble because he antagonized key members of Congress during his four years as deputy secretary.

Following the announcement, Dawson praised her col-

leagues, particularly Chairman Dennis Patrick, and said she "would miss them dearly." She acknowledged that her stint at DOT will be a short one—it will last no longer than the Reagan Administration—but that it should not be an uneventful one. "I think a lot of things need to be accomplished. . . . It's not likely to be a sleepy year, believe me."



Dawson's appointment could result in a three-person FCC. The FCC is supposed to comprise five commissioners, but it has been one short since Mark Fowler stepped down as chairman last April. Bradley Holmes, a former aide to Patrick and now head of the FCC's Mass Media Bureau's policy and rules division, has reportedly been tapped to take Fowler's slot, but the White House has yet to nominate him.

According to FCC officials, a three-person FCC is not preferable, but it is workable. Under the FCC charter, three commissioners constitute the quorum necessary to take actions.

Speculation of who would replace Dawson began even as she accepted the President's praise in the White House rose garden before her colleagues, family, friends and a roped-off gang of reporters and television cameras.

Two of the names being mentioned were on the short list for

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Turner's TNT adds spark to Atlantic Cable Show

New basic cable network, planned for March launch, still needs board approval; on the wish list: major sports events including the Olympics, Academy Awards, Grammys, pageants

Ted Turner, in a keynote address opening the Atlantic Cable Show, revealed details about his planned basic cable network. Turner Network Television, which he said would be a cable-exclusive program service built around major television events. The service, which needs the approval of the Turner board, which is scheduled to take up the matter at a meeting on Friday, Oct. 16, would be supported by both advertisers and cable operators.

Turner's superstation, WTBS(TV) Atlanta, "has gone about as far as it can go," Turner said. "I need to get subscriber fees so we can go to the next level." The fees he envisions would begin at 10 cents per month per subscriber in March 1988 and would increase to 20 cents in March 1989. He also said the network would carry 10 minutes of advertising an hour, with three to four minutes turned back to the cable operator.

The events Turner wants to go after in-

clude Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, NCAA basketball, all the college football bowl games and associated parades, the Olympics, the Kentucky Derby, the Daytona 500, the Indianapolis 500, the PGA, U.S. Open golf, the Masters, the British Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open tennis, Miss USA, Miss Teen USA, Miss Universe, the People's Choice Awards, the American Music Awards, the Kennedy Cen-

ter Honors, the Academy Awards, the Tony Awards and the Grammys. Turner's Goodwill Games would also appear on the new network.

Turner made it a point to claim that making the new service cable-exclusive was his idea. And he said his legal counsel has advised him that because TNT would be a start-up service, it would not run afoul of antitrust laws. Cable programmers have come under

Atlantic City Convention Center

