★★★★★★ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLITICS ISSUE★★★★★★

High Country news

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THE BEST AND THE WORST
OF THE WEST IN CONGRESS

by Dan Whipple

Every two years, we elect politicians amid a great deal of hoopla and send them off to Washington. There they stay for two or six years, depending upon the office, and wage their daily wars, passing laws that few of us need. Then again at election time, they return to the hustings and report on all the good they've done us in the interim.

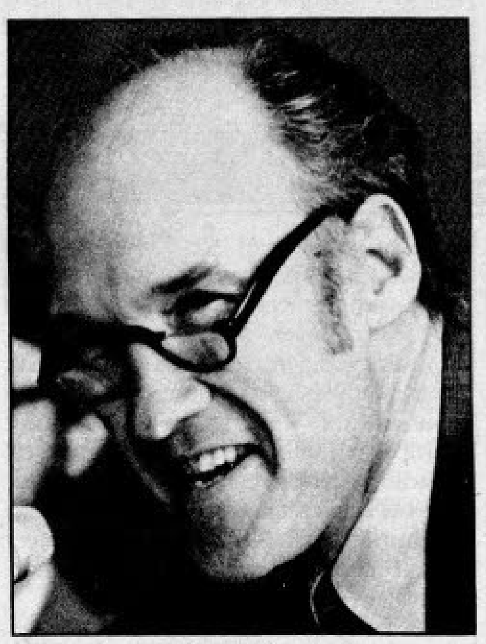
These reports are, of course, somewhat self-serving. Few of us have the time or inclination to follow the careers of our elected representatives in any detail. We more or less assume that they are doing their best and forwarding the cause of truth, justice and the American way.

As in everything else, though, some congressmen and senators are better at their jobs than others. *High Country News* surveyed dozens of lobbyists, congressional staff members and reporters to find out which Rocky Mountain region congressmen were most effective — and which were least effective — in accomplishing their goals in Congress. We weren't interested in rating the officials on their environmental records. Several groups do that and we have included ratings from the League of Conservation Voters on our politicians' environmental records (see page 9). Instead, we were interested in how well they accomplished their own agendas, regardless of whether they were pro- or anti-environment. So herewith are the best and worst congressmen from the Rockies.

THE BEST IN THE SENATE

James McClure (R-Idaho)

The chairman of the important-to-the-Rockies Energy and Natural Resources Committee is often described as the smartest man in the Senate. He has a great deal of respect among his colleagues and is knowledgeable and well-prepared on issues that interest him. His overall reputation among environmentalists is not good, particularly since he has supported opening wilderness areas for oil and gas leasing and supports stiff release language for lands not declared as wilderness. However, while conservative, he is not the one hundred percent ideologue that he is sometimes painted. During the debate on the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments, he supported the inclusion of firm pollution standards in the law, telling one interviewer, "I don't expect corporations voluntarily to try to achieve broad social goals." And, without McClure's support, there would be no River of No Return Wilderness. As testimony to his effectiveness, one lobbyist said, "He's good when he's with you and dangerous when he's against you."



Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.)

Simpson's rise to power in the Senate since his election in 1978 has been little short of meteoric. He is one of the most popular men in the Senate and he has established a great deal of trust. One lobbyist said, "When he's against something, it's trouble because he brings people along with him." This year, he authored, sponsored and pushed through a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Said one congressional observer, "You have no idea what a tremendous accomplishment that was. People didn't think that bill had a snowball's chance in hell of getting through, but because of Simpson, it passed." Simpson is also chairman of the Veteran Affairs Committee and veterans, perhaps not coincidentally, have not suffered as much from the Reagan budget cuts as many other interest groups. Simpson has not been a darling of conservationists, pushing some amendments that they thought weakened the Clean Air Act, and supporting a Wyoming wilderness bill that environmentalists consider inadequate. However, he has not gotten a vigorous anti-environmental reputation *a la* James McClure, and Simpson universally gets high marks for his willingness to listen and for his quick grasp of the issues. Simpson seems destined to be one of the leaders of the Senate for some time to come.

★ RISING STARS ★

Rep. Les AuCoin (D-Ore.)
Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.)
Rep. Mike Lowry (D-Wash.)
Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.)

Pete Domenici (R-N.M.)

Domenici has been chairman of the Senate Budget Committee for two years and, in the words of one source, "has learned a lot." Domenici is perceived as honest and candid. He has been in the congressional forefront of the recent budget battles and has been an extremely effective chairman. "He has been willing to take on the White House and make them see some reality in economic policy." The budget has taken most of his time and expertise, but he did manage to get a few swipes at the Clean Air Act during the renewal debate this year. He won the copper smelting industry another five years — until 1992 — before they must comply with the act.

DREAM TEAM

If you supported legislation and wanted a winning combination of Senate sponsors, you would pick:

Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) — The Senate majority leader is universally respected and his environmental record isn't that bad either.

James McClure (R-Idaho) — see accompanying story.

Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) — Sometimes overlooked when counting the best and the brightest, Cranston works behind the scenes and has a way of going into the cloak room, counting noses and coming out with enough votes to win.

(continued on page 8)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

High Country News

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BuRec may offer U.S. dams for sale

In a move similar to its public lands sale program, the U.S. Department of Interior is considering selling federal dams to interested water users.

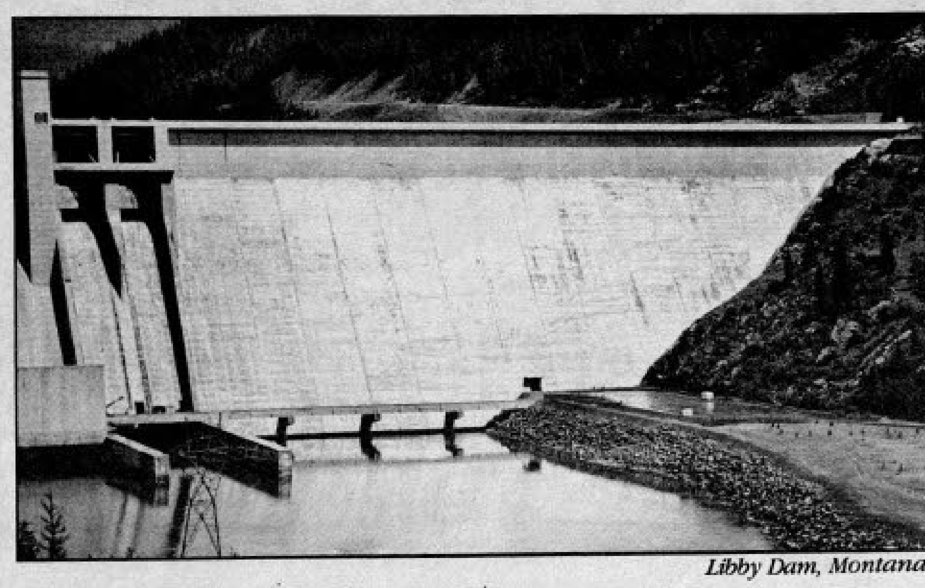
The department has ordered the Bureau of Reclamation to survey hundreds of irrigation districts, power companies and other entities to see if they are interested in taking over ownership of water systems run by the agency, said L.W. Lloyd, BuRec's Northwest regional director in Boise.

So far, the responses have been few, he said. But among those that did express interest were a Rupert, Idaho irrigation district that wants title to Minidoka Dam and a group of Pasco, Washington, irrigators who said three water districts in that state wanted to own facilities at Grand Coulee Dam "lock, stock and barrel."

An official in the bureau's Washington, D.C. office said the agency distributed the survey to determine the amount of interest in ownership tranfers before deciding whether to seek congressional approval.

"There is this momentum picking up to return to the states more responsibility," BuRec spokesman Ted Hughes said. "It's unrelated to the land sales (proposal), but it's a similar philosophy." The Bureau of Land Management has begun a controversial plan to sell $17 billion worth of federal lands and properties to reduce government deficits (*HCN*, 7/23/82).

The BuRec's offer would raise money because the agency no longer would have to maintain and operate the water systems it owns across the country, Hughes said.



David Spear

Libby Dam, Montana

In addition, the offer is extended only to entities that have paid off their debt to the government for the facilities' construction costs. That stipulation could bring more money into government coffers because it serves as an incentive to speed repayment by the districts, some of which otherwise would not complete their debt repayments until the turn of the century.

The BuRec's offer surprised some water users, who said they were not sure such an arrangement would be feasible. "I think they're just trying to find some revenue," said Royse Van Curen, manager of the Boise Project Board of Control, which consists of five Idaho and Oregon irrigation districts. "I don't think there's anything more to it. The only place (our district) might be interested in is Arrowrock Dam, but what would we do if it breaks?"

Liability and the responsibility for taking over maintenance of the facilities were concerns of some of the smaller districts, although in Idaho, state officials would continue dam inspection.

Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Ken Dunn called the plan workable, but state fisheries officials said they were not sure whether fish runs would be affected by private ownership of dams.

Lloyd conceded some irrigation districts want ownership because they dislike using water for a variety of purposes. However, he said congress would mandate continued multiple use before any transfers are approved.

Lloyd said he expects the bureau will be able to obtain congressional approval for ownership transfers if there is enough interest among users.

— Ellen Marks

WPPSS: A nuke weapons plant?

Despite a growing nuclear weapons freeze movement, the Reagan administration has begun to develop plans to produce more plutonium for weaponry. One prime site for the production facility is none other than the Washington Public Power Supply System's recently abandoned nuclear plant number 4 at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington.

A Department of Energy task force that is studying the need to replace an aging reactor on the government site at Hanford is seriously considering the WPPSS plant, one of two abandoned last January. Reports indicate that, with minor modifications, the WPPSS plant could produce plutonium for nuclear warheads as well as electricity for Northwest customers.

The Task Force is also studying other possible new sources for weapons grade plutonium, including the Clinch River Liquid Fast Breeder project in Tennessee. A recommendation is expected in December.

The Hanford plant is particularly attractive, according to U.S. Rep. Sid Morrison (R-Wash.), because it is now 23 percent finished and could be modified at a fraction of the cost of starting construction on a new reactor.

But such distinguished proponents of nuclear power as Nobel Laureate Hans Bethe have advised against such a move.

Bethe, who also supports a unilateral nuclear weapons freeze, has argued that "nuclear energy and nuclear weapons have nothing to do with each other" and warned that the disarmament movement would turn its attention to nuclear power plants if the distinction between military and peaceful uses of nuclear energy is blurred any further.

— John Soisson

Dear friends,

This is our biennial (more or less) special issue on politics and the upcoming elections. In our front page story, we have tried to separate the wheat from the chaff of Rocky Mountain region representatives. The idea for this story was lifted from *Washington Monthly* magazine, which, a few months ago, ran a story about the six best and six worst members of the entire U.S. Senate. We have expanded that approach to include members of the House of Representatives as well. The information used to make the analysis was taken from those who work with and watch the legislators at their jobs.

Washington Monthly should be required reading for anyone interested in Washington, D.C.'s internal workings. The magazine digs behind political cliches to show its readers how power, bureaucracy and politics work in Washington. Furthermore, it does it with style and a sense of humor.

The *Monthly* also remembers that Washington is only one part of the United States. While this may seem obvious to the rest of us, people who live in Washington tend to forget it and develop myopia about what they are up to. Among elected officials, it's called "Potomac fever." *Washington Monthly*, to its credit, realizes that issues dealt with in Washington affect real people outside of Washington and are not simply something put on the political trading block to enhance one's "clout." If you think retaining this perspective is a simple accomplishment, you've never lived in Washington.

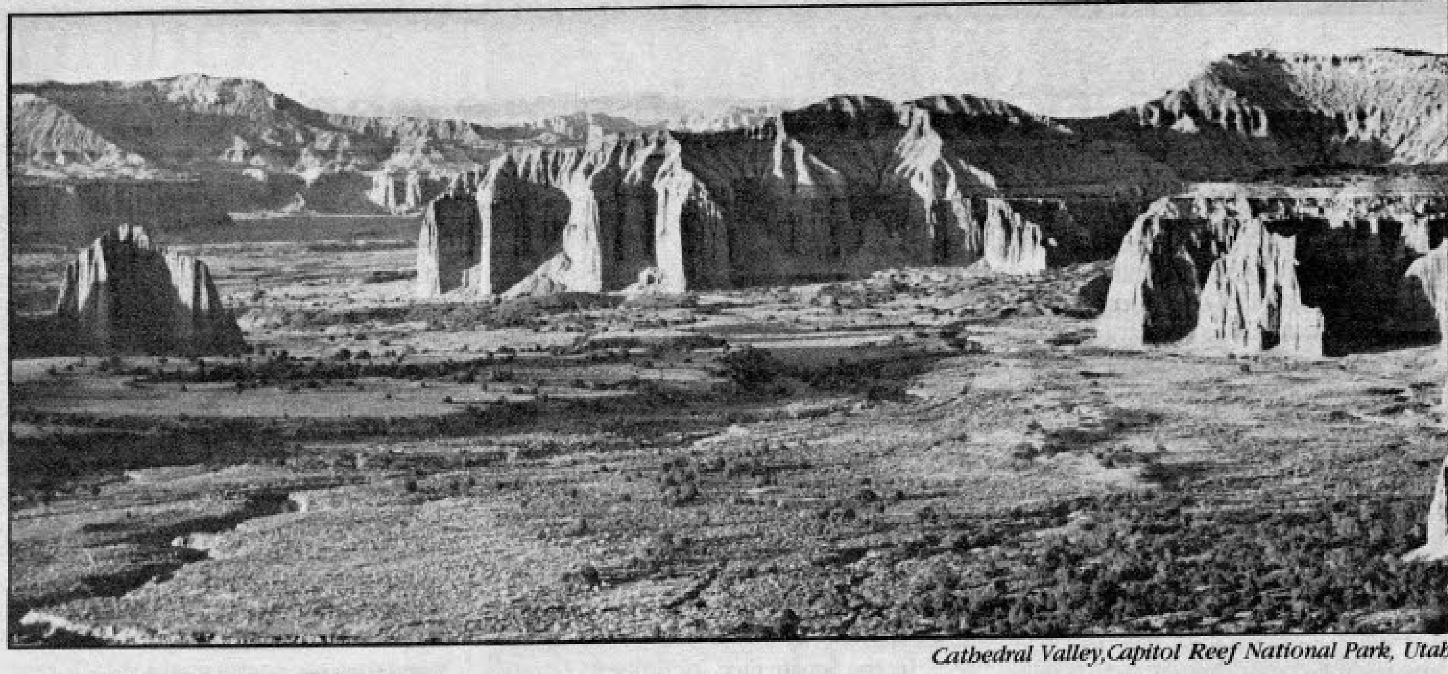
■

Two of our beloved office mates are leaving *HCN* — circulation manager Maureen Dempsey and typesetter Debbie East. Maureen got worn out working two jobs and carrying a full load of school work at Central Wyoming College, so she has dropped her *HCN* circulation duties. She will be missed here, particularly by managing editor Dan Whipple. Maureen was the only one in the office who bought potato chips to replace the ones stolen from Dan's desk. Maureen's association with *HCN* will not end completely, however, because she will be handling our book review department for us, making sure that we get review copies of books, sending them off to reviewers and reviewing one occasionally herself.

Debbie, the only one in the office who seems to understand our cantankerous typesetting machine, will now be concentrating on her work with the Northwestern Wyoming Community Action Program. Debbie runs NOWCAP's program that provides home insulation for low-income and handicapped individuals. Debbie is also a vigorous activist in feminist issues and will be devoting much of her energy to that arena. She has been the office guardian of nonsexist English — making sure the editors don't write "congressman" or "chairman." In honor of her departure, we are only going to pay her 59 cents for every dollar she really earned.

Debbie's typesetting duties will be split between Nita Loper and Jazmyn McDonald. Long-time readers will remember Jaz as our business manager of a few years ago. We are glad to have her back and we welcome Nita to the staff.

— the staff


Kevin Dahl

Cathedral Valley,Capitol Reef National Park, Utah

Grazing rights extended in Capitol Reef

By a voice vote, the U.S. Senate and House has passed legislation to extend cattle grazing for Utah ranchers into Capitol Reef National Park.

The final version of the bill is a compromise worked out by Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah) and Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio). The original Senate version of the bill would have extended cattle-grazing leases in the park for the lifetime of the 45 Utah ranchers involved and their heirs but a weaker version was passed by the House. The final version extends the grazing leases until Dec. 31, 1994, and also includes authorization for the National Academy of Sciences to study the effects of cattle grazing on the park over a 10-year period.

A spokesman for Garn's office said the legislation was introduced because Wayne and Garfield counties, which have the park within their boundaries, have depended on livestock grazing for the main source of subsistence for over 100 years. Problems arose between the park and the ranchers when, during the final hours of the Johnson administration, President Lyndon Johnson increased the size of what was then called Capitol Reef National Monument six-fold. Two years later the monument became a national park and the grazing deadline was set. The spokesman said the counties affected were promised increased tourism and, along with it, increased money to replace the lost revenue suffered by the ranchers. "But it never materialized," he said.

Utah Farm Bureau president Frank Nishiguchi hailed the bill as a "landmark piece of legislation that would impact grazing land all over the west. It may mean that we have turned the corner toward a sensible approach to grazing policies on public lands," he said.

Farm Bureau spokesman Rod Clifford said the organization is confident the 10-year study will show that grazing is not detrimental to the park. He added that the organization is especially pleased that the bill leaves control of grazing in the hands of the Bureau of Land Management rather than the National Park Service, which initially questioned whether grazing should be allowed in the park.

Although most public officials favor the extension of grazing, the National Parks and Conservation Association has been working to see it ended. In the September/October 1982 issue of their national magazine, *National Parks*, the organization cites a study conducted by a Brigham Young University range specialist on the effects of grazing in the park. NPCA says the study showed, "that *at best*, the park is being overgrazed by 200 to 400 percent." The story said that since the completion of the study the report has been suppressed and is not even available under the Freedom of Information Act. NPCA concluded that the National Park Service "and some others" did not like what the report had to say.

— Layne Miller

Forests managed under new rules

The U.S. Forest Service has revised the regulations governing its management of the national forest system. Proponents say the changes will streamline the forest planning process but conservationists believe the new rules will emphasize timber production at the expense of other forest resources.

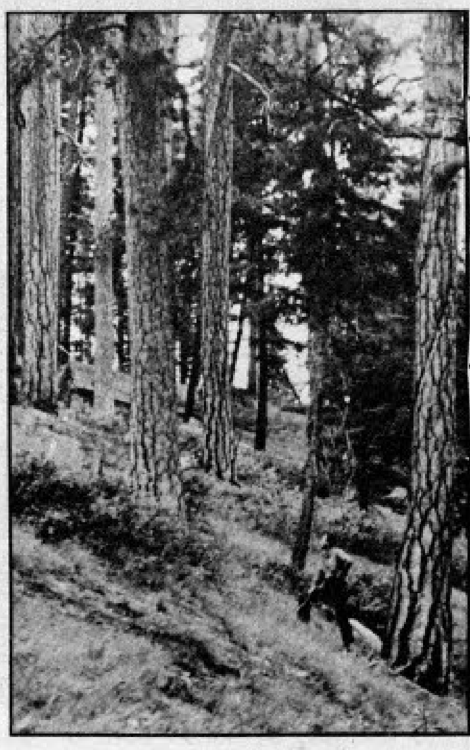
Replacing the original regulations drawn up by the Carter administration in 1979, the revisions have been published as final rules and are scheduled to take effect October 30.

One major change is the elimination of growth requirements for commercial timber. To be considered for harvesting under the current regulations, timber lands have to produce at least 20 cubic feet of timber per acre per year. The revised rules contain no minimum growth requirements.

According to Larry Blasing of the Inland Forest Resource Council, eliminating the growth requirement gives the Forest Service more flexibility in deciding what timber to cut. Instead of relying on an arbitrary standard, Blasing said, the revision will force the Forest Service to take a closer look at the variations in its timber resources.

Jim Reid of the Region I forester's office in Missoula, Montana, agreed that the Forest Service will have to review timber lands more closely, adding that the new rules may not significantly alter the region's volume of commercial timber.

Bill Cunningham, Montana representative of the Wilderness Society, said eliminating the growth standard would open the national forests' remaining roadless areas outside of wilderness to development. Cunningham said those stands are marginal and until now could not be cut at a profit.


Idaho Dept. of Commerce and Development

Cunningham is also concerned with another provision that allows the regional forester to approve departures from the Forest Service's sustained yield policy. Departures make it possible to overcut an area to deal with an emergency, such as insect infestation. Under the current regulations only the Forest Service chief can issue a departure.

"The new regulations show that the Reagan administration considers a departure decision a routine decision," Cunningham said. There will probably be an increase in departures now that they are easier to obtain, he said.

Blasing supports the rule change because the departure decision will be made closer to the actual field situation, he said. In addition, they can be an effective method of improving timber. "By getting a departure to cut a stand of diseased trees for example, you might overcut now, but you would get more growth in the future," Blasing said.

A third change in the regulations concerns the forest planning cycle. Currently, forest plans are to be reviewed every five years and updated every 10 years. The new rules call for forest plan updates every 15 years.

The change makes the regulations consistent with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, Reid said. He added that the rules still require five-year reviews.

Cunningham said the extended planning cycle will make it harder to protect remaining roadless areas, which must be considered for wilderness at the end of each planning period.

— Jeff Stern

HOTLINE

Salmon River gold

A ban on new mining claims along the Salmon River in central Idaho has been lifted. The action affects 2,500 acres of national forest land along a 22-mile stretch of the river from Riggins to Long Tom Bar. The section was withdrawn from mining claims in 1973 when the Salmon was being considered for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Portions of the river above and below the 22-mile section are part of the River of No Return Wilderness. The re-opened area is mainly of interest to placer gold miners.

Of gas and grass

Environmentalists are concerned that oil and gas drilling on the Little Missouri National Grassland in western North Dakota will disrupt the area's wildlife and landscape. The Forest Service has issued nearly 550 drill permits there since 1980. The National Wildlife Federation has criticized the Forest Service's practice of preparing environmental assessments for each drill site, saying the method ignores the cumulative impacts of all permitted drilling. The federation has called for a moratorium on future drill applications until a thorough impact statement is compiled.

AMAX land exchange

AMAX, Inc. and the U.S. Forest Service have worked out a land exchange involving over 12,000 acres in central Colorado. AMAX will receive 2,800 acres of federal land bordering its Climax molybdenum mine near Leadville. In return, the company will give the Forest Service 9,300 acres of private land in three national forests. Forest officials said the trade will allow the agency to prevent development in valuable wildlife and recreation areas. The action must be approved by the House Agriculture Committee before any transfer can take place.

Compromising dams

In an effort to compromise, two environmental groups are proposing one or two water projects on the South Platte River in Colorado rather than the expensive and controversial Two Forks Reservoir, a proposed 860,000 acre-foot project to be built at the confluence of the North and South Platte River forks. Conservationists oppose the Two Forks project, which is estimated to cost $239 million. In its place, the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Wildlife Federation are proposing two smaller water projects on the South Platte. The two groups will present their plan to the Metropolitan Water Roundtable, a panel which discusses Denver's future water needs, in October.

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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete. Elizabeth R. Schimelpfenig Sept. 23, 1982

HOTLINE

Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)

Friends in high places

Environmental Action listed Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) as one of the Senate's top beneficiaries of donations from what it calls the "filthy five" corporate polluters. Hatch reportedly received $10,500 for the 1982 campaign from the five corporations: Dow Chemical Company, Standard Oil of Indiana, Weyerhauser Corporation, Republic Steel Corporation and Occidental Petroleum Corporation. The five earned the dubious title by consistently violating environmental laws.

Action against Getty

The state of Wyoming, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the Jackson Hole Alliance recently filed suit against Getty Oil Company, Interior Secretary James Watt and two U.S. Minerals Management Service officials in an effort to stop Getty from drilling in the Little Granite Creek area near Jackson, Wyoming. The dispute over drilling in the proposed wilderness area has been waging since last spring when the Interior Department approved Getty's application to drill (*HCN*, 8/20/82). The recent suit claims that approval of the application violates federal law because it is based on a faulty environmental impact statement and because it violated the terms of the federal oil and gas leases on the property, according to the *Casper Star Tribune*.

Dirtying the waters

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed changes for clean water standards that would weaken pollution control requirements and delay cleanup of polluted rivers and lakes. The proposals come after the Reagan administration asked Congress to loosen federal clean water laws. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the proposals would encourage states to loosen clean water standards. Environmentalists fear industry will shop around for states with lax water quality laws and they fear dirty waters will remain dirty.

Oil ban challenged

Amoco Production Company and Sohio Petroleum Company have filed suit to stop the Interior Department from cancelling the companies' oil leases on the Wind River Indian Reservation in central Wyoming. According to the *Casper Star-Tribune*, Interior had recommended cancelling the leases at the request of the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indian tribes living on the reservation. The tribes said that Amoco underpaid royalties and operated equipment carelessly. Filed in U.S. District Court in Cheyenne, the suit claims that as trustee of the Indians, Interior cannot be impartial in making a cancellation decision.

Arizona politicians ignore eco issues

"The environmental policies of this Administration are the policies of neglect," said Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.). But the chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee didn't offer the observation to constituents in his new second congressional district, which stretches across the Sonoran Desert from Tucson west to Yuma. The comment was made in Philadelphia, to an Americans for Democratic Action audience.

Voters in Tucson, Nogales and Gila Bend hear Udall go after Ronald Reagan and the economy more than they hear him hounding James Watt. But the Interior Secretary is far from forgotten in the district. He has been an unwelcome presence for Udall's Republican challenger, Ray Laos, who didn't think it was gentlemanly of Watt to publicly observe that his campaign against Udall didn't have a chance.

By and large, resource issues have generated little attention from both Republicans and Democrats in Arizona this fall.

The other four congressional races, with one exception, will most likely be won by Republicans who are basically insensitive to resource issues. The exception is in the third district, which includes the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale, where incumbent Bob Stump faces a strong challenge from Pat Bosch. Bosch is waiting for autumn's inevitable smog to return and provide an appropriate backdrop for her attacks on Stump's calls to gut provisions of the Clean Air Act.

In the Senate race, incumbent Democrat Dennis DeConcini is perceived as an accomplished waffler on most issues, including environmental and energy concerns. His vote in support of the Alaska Lands bill came after months of hedging. The DeConcini staff, according to a Sierra Club member in Tucson, "is difficult to work with."

Challenging DeConcini is state representative Pete Dunn, whose campaign literature describes him as being "in favor of the direction of the Interior Department under James Watt." Dunn also supports the dismantling of the Department of Energy.

Something bizarre will have to happen for Bruce Babbitt to lose the governor's race to his poorly financed Republican challenger, Leo Corbet. Babbitt's grasp of resource issues is strong. His only veto to be overridden by the legislature dealt with the 1980 Sagebrush Rebellion law, which allowed the state to take control of 20 million federal acres.

To reinforce the Babbitt image, which many Arizonans feel is being carefully cultivated in order to provide a trip to the Senate when Barry Goldwater retires, a photo of the governor and his family backpacking through the Grand Canyon appeared in some of this year's Arizona Office of Tourism material.

— *Paul Talbot*

Three dams considered for Poudre

Although the Reagan administration is considering recommending the Cache la Poudre River in northern Colorado for Wild and Scenic River designation, the Colorado Water Conservation Board is studying the feasibility of three dam projects on the river.

The Poudre was slated for possible Wild and Scenic River status by a 1975 amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. After study, the U.S. Forest Service presented five possible plans, ranging from no designation to nearly complete protection for a 74-mile stretch beginning at the river's headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park and extending to a section 15 miles north of Fort Collins. Public meetings were held and more than 1,100 letters favoring Wild and Scenic designation were received.

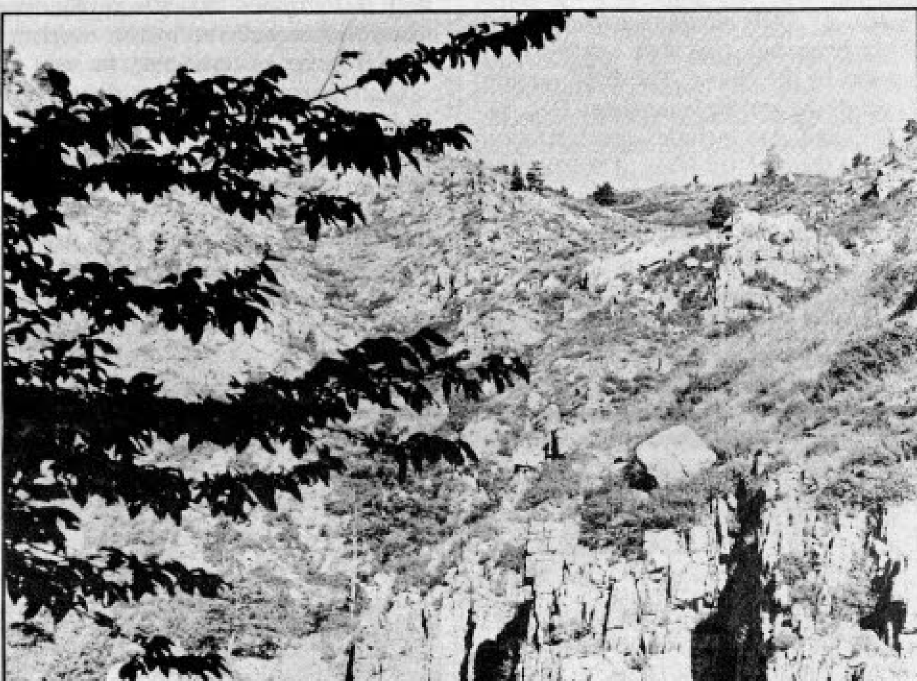
The Forest Service, considering these comments, forwarded recommendations to Washington. Its recommendations have not been made public. "It's not available to the public until the president acts on it," said Ed Nesselroad of the Forest Service's Fort Collins office.

But Tom McKenna, of Preserve Our Poudre, a group favoring Wild and Scenic designation for the entire 74-mile river section, claims to have a copy of the recommendations. He said the Forest Service has suggested that only the already-protected section of the Poudre within Rocky Mountain National Park and the Commanche Peak Wilderness Area be considered for Wild and Scenic status.

Meanwhile, the Colorado legislature appropriated $300,000 to study the feasibility of placing dams along the Poudre upstream from Fort Collins. If any of the dams were built, Wild and Scenic designation would be precluded, McKenna said. "Practically speaking, there would be no reason for it to be wild and scenic," he said. "The purpose (of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) is to preserve rivers undammed."

Tudor Engineering, an independent engineering firm, has completed a preliminary study and presented its findings to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. A field of eight prospective projects was narrowed to three.

At an August public meeting, Terence Yorks, a Fort Collins computer systems modeler and member of Preserve Our Poudre, questioned the benefit-cost ratios Tudor Engineering presented. Seven and one-half percent interest was used in figuring costs, which Yorks said was totally unrealistic in these days of double-digit interest. He also pointed out that if an interest figure higher than 7.5 percent were used, the benefit-cost ratios of all the projects would be below one (the break-even point).



Kent Stanton

Poudre River, Colorado

He questioned the projected revenues from sales of peaking power. The study based benefits on sales at 15 cents per kilowatt hour, when Yorks said Colorado Public Service pays only 3.5 cents per kwh. The highest price currently being paid by any power purchaser is 5.5 cents per kwh, he added. Costs and benefits were figured at 1982 prices.

Demand for the power was also questioned. Northern Colorado will have two coal-fired power plants coming on line within the next three years, and both of these will have excess generating capacity, Yorks said. The power from the Poudre project would be sold to various electric pools.

The water conservation board will study the three proposals and hold public meetings in December for more comment. In January, 1983, the board will make its recommendations to the Colorado legislature. "The ultimate conclusion could be that none of the alternatives are feasible, but the board was instructed to look at the alternatives," board director Bill McDonald said. If the legislature believes more study is needed, they can create a new bill for additional funding, McDonald added.

— *Vicky Boyd*

Timber relief bill fells opposition

The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has approved a bill that would let timber companies cancel up to 40 percent of their government contracts signed before January 1, 1982.

Sponsored by Sens. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) and James McClure (R-Idaho), the Timber Relief Act is awaiting action by the full Senate.

Timber companies purchased millions of dollars of federal timber in the late 1970s when home construction was booming. However, the collapse of the housing market and resultant drop in timber prices eliminates the companies' ability to process the timber at a profit. Honoring the contracts could force them out of business.

The bill is viewed as an aid to companies in Oregon and Washington. Because of a different pricing structure, companies in those two states paid higher prices for federal timber than companies elsewhere in the country.

Critics have said the bill is a bail-out of the larger companies, including Boise Cascade, Louisiana-Pacific and Georgia-Pacific, which hold close to two-thirds of the contracts in the northwest. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) tried unsuccessfully to add an amendment limiting contract cancellations to companies with less than 500 employees.

The bill has received mixed reviews within the industry itself. A spokesman for the Inland Forest Resources Council said that mill operators in Montana who paid lower prices for their contracts fear that relief for west coast companies will bring more competition into the already tight lumber market. The feeling is that "contracts are contracts" and the bill helps companies that misinterpreted the market, he said.

For the same reasons, southern timber industries would not support the bill until a ceiling was placed on the Region Six (Oregon and Washington) timber sales program. According to Mark Pawlicki of the National Forest Products Association in Washington, D.C., a large majority of the timber industry now supports the bill. The Reagan administration has not taken a position on the bill, Pawlicki said.

The Emergency National Forest Productivity Act, an amendment to the bill introduced by Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.), would require the Forest Service to start a program to salvage diseased and insect-infested timber. Melcher said the plan would improve the health of the national forests and reduce unemployment in the industry. However, Bill Cunningham of The Wilderness Society said the program could increase road construction on the forests.

— Jeff Stern

WPPSS bailout proposed

In the wake of an Oregon judge's ruling that 11 Oregon utilities are not obligated to pay their share of the $7 billion debt for two Northwest nuclear power plants, federal officials are taking a hard look at a scheme that would bail out the utilities.

On September 29, Lane County (Oregon) District Judge George Woodrich delivered a summary judgment which declared the contracts between the 11 Oregon utilities and the Washington Public Power Supply System invalid under Oregon law and city charters.

Woodrich declared that the municipal utilities involved did not have authority to sign the contracts backing construction of WPPSS plants 4 and 5 without voter approval.

The two plants were terminated by WPPSS last January in the light of skyrocketing construction costs and declining electrical demand. Three other plants in the five plant WPPSS network are still under construction.

When the plants were terminated, the 88 members of the WPPSS consortium were left with $2.25 billion in construction bonds plus $4.51 billion in interest that they must begin paying off in January, 1983.

Members of the consortium, reeling under the weight of the enormous debt, sued for release from their obligations, despite "hell or high water" provisions in the WPPSS contracts which require payment of the debt regardless of whether the plants ever produced electricity.

If Woodrich's ruling, which is certain to be appealed, stands, it could trigger another provision of the contracts which requires the remaining 77 members to automatically cover for the non-paying utilities.

That possibility, along with the chance that Woodrich's ruling will snowball and encourage others among the remaining 77 utilities to refuse to make any debt payments, has generated new fears of a major default by the nation's largest issuer of tax-exempt municipal bonds. A default of that size would cause major disruptions in the national bond market, analysts say.

As an alternative, officials are studying a plan developed by Shearson/American Express that would bail out WPPSS and keep the disaster from contaminating the national bond market.

The same day Woodrich rendered his judgment, Albert Bellas, Shearson senior executive vice president, outlined the plan for the WPPSS members. Shearson is a major creditor of WPPSS, with $90 million worth of bonds in Plants 4 and 5.

Under the plan WPPSS would offer $1.5 billion in low interest bonds, all of which would be bought by the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal agency which underwrites the construction of Plants 1, 2 and 3. The BPA would get the money to buy the bonds from the Federal Financing Bank at a rate equal to the interest rate on the $1.5 billion in new bonds. That transaction would require federal approval.

WPPSS would then invest the proceeds from the sale in high yielding government securities. If the money were borrowed from the government at seven percent and invested in securities that yielded about 11 percent, the "profit" could be used to pay off the $2.25 billion in construction bonds as they come due over the next 36 years. All that would be left to pay off would be the debt to the federal bank.

Estimates place the savings to the WPPSS utilities at more than $3 billion. Cost to the federal government: $384 million over 20 years. Profits to Shearson in handlers fees: $6 to $9 million (plus salvation of $90 million in WPPSS bonds).

Even though both WPPSS and bailouts are not too highly favored in Washington these days, there are a number of backers of the plan, not the least of which are the WPPSS utilities.

Slapped with a 60 percent increase in wholesale power costs by the BPA on October 1 and faced with the impending starting date of the debt payments, many of those utilities have been forced to consider a doubling of rates for consumers.

Some observers predict that such enormous increases will bankrupt many farmers throughout the Northwest whose irrigation systems are heavily energy dependent and whose operations are already financially threatened by a weak economy.

Meanwhile, still another plan is under study that would bring relief to ratepayers throughout the region and head off a default. That proposal involves sale of one or both of the terminated plants to an entity that might complete them. Efforts are underway to put together a deal — one which could include the Department of Energy — but so far the efforts have not been successful.

— John Soisson

HOTLINE

No wolves for Idaho

Idaho Sen. Steve Symms (R) recently claimed he would take legislative action if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed Wolf Recovery Program is expanded to areas other than designated wilderness in Idaho. The program, developed by the Wolf Recovery Team, will re-establish the Northern Rocky Mountain gray wolf in some areas of the lower 48 states (*HCN*, 9/3/82). Areas in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming are being considered. Symms feels that re-establishing wolves in areas other than designated wilderness is the same as expanding wilderness areas. He said the study was a waste of tax dollars and that the wolves could prove harmful.

Timber vs. wildlife

A valuable wildlife habitat area adjacent to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in Montana will be harvested for timber by Burlington Northern due to a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. BN has wanted to harvest the 5,000-acre roadless area for several years, but wildlife experts and the Forest Service cautioned against it because the development of roads needed for the logging could have harmful effects on the area's grizzlies, moose and elk. The Forest Service, however, has become interested in cutting some of its own lands in the area and gave the okay after a study was completed by consultants and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The harvesting plan calls for logging small units at a time, then closing the unit off before proceeding to another. The Forest Service believes such a method will allow a "minimum of disruption" to wildlife, according to the *Missoulian*.

BLM reconsiders line

A proposed 19-mile pipeline between the Little Jacks and Big Jacks Creek wilderness study areas in Idaho could be delayed because grazing in the area could damge the two areas' wilderness characteristics, according to the Bureau of Land Management's environmental impact statement. The pipeline was proposed by the BLM. Also of concern is the effect grazing would have on the areas' herd of rare California bighorn sheep (*HCN* 7/23/82). BLM officials estimate five to 10 of the 100-head herd would be lost.

BARBED WIRE

Question of the week. The *Jackson Hole News* reported that a rancher, giving directions to a tourist, told the man to drive to a cattle guard and turn there. Replied the visitor, "What kind of uniform does a cattle guard wear?"

There ain't enough room in this town for the both of us, podnuh. A Meeteetse, Wyoming, man shot himself in the right leg while practicing his fast draw.

Only in California. The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation set up an Adopt-a-Rat program when it rounded up 59 rats from a dilapidated apartment building. The rats were being fed by a retired security guard living in the building and California law prohibits the destruction of any domesticated animal. The rats are known to their supporters as the Eleventh Street Shelter 59.

One boom was enough. There is no truth to the rumor, reported *Science News*, that the birthrate in the state of Washington soared nine months after the eruption of the Mt. St. Helens volcano.

My mother always said it was a Commie plot. A spokesman for the Swedish navy said that an unidentified foreign submarine escaped from navy surveillance near a top-secret Swedish naval base because recruits' hearing had been ruined by years of listening to loud music. Consequently, they were unable to hear the "beeps" fr[illegible]nar devices.

We can't think of a better place for it, either. A headline in the *Sierra Club National News Report* read, "Nuke waste may hit House floor."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLITICAL PLAYGROUND

Fire and brimstone over

Idaho's economy is the central issue in a governor's race that intensified recently with the activities of two political action committees.

Incumbent Democratic Gov. John Evans and Republican Lieut. Gov. Phil Batt are vying for the chief executive post at a time when the state is facing severe budget problems, partly due to the slowdown in two of its major industries: mining and timber.

Evans, who has held office for five years, became a target when he handled a revenue shortfall during the last fiscal year by holding over about $13 million in obligations until the new fiscal year started in July.

That action prompted Batt to air a television program, claiming Evans had engaged in deficit spending in a state that requires a balanced budget. The ad brought Democrats across the state rushing to Evans' defense in what became a technical argument about what constitutes a deficit budget.

Evans then abandoned his relatively low-key stance by accusing the onion farmer of voting against agricultural appropriations and of being "anti-growth" — a serious charge in a state that is trying to attract new industry.

While the two candidates tried to woo voters with economic revitalization programs, two anti-Evans political action committees surfaced, reminding some observers of similar activity during the 1980 Senate race between former Sen. Frank Church and the Republican victor, Steve Symms.

A group called FIRE (Free Idahoans to Replace Evans) began circulating bumper stickers and posting billboards linking Evans' opposition to a proposed right-to-work law with the shutdown last year of Bunker Hill. A sister group called B.R.I.M.S.T.O.N.E. (not an acronym — just a clever companion to FIRE) began soon after to distribute a comic book that also criticized Evans for his refusal this year to sign a legislature-approved right-to-work bill.

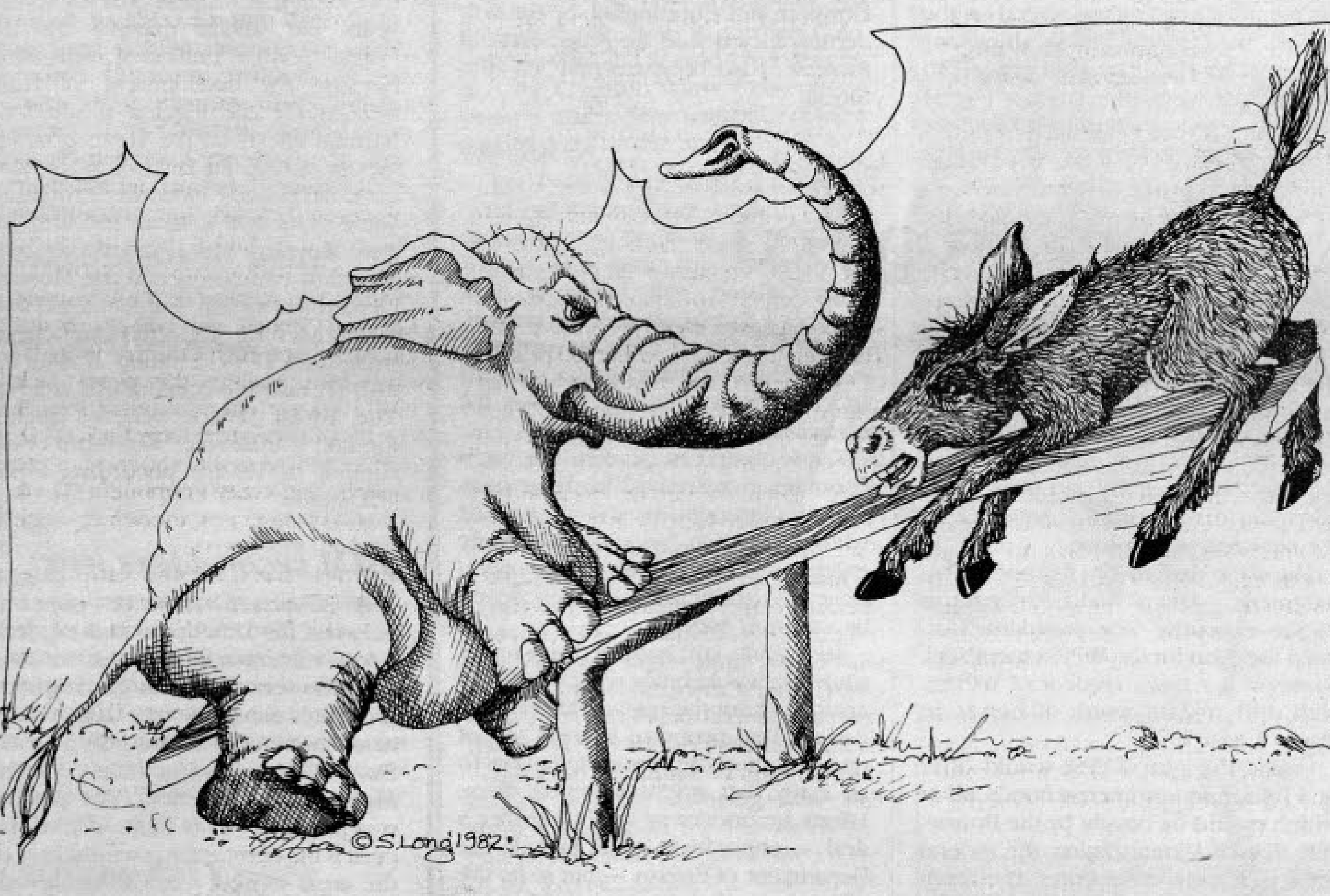
In the congressional race between Democrat Larry LaRocco and incumbent Republican Larry Craig, public land sales and a nuclear weapons freeze are two of the issues.

LaRocco, a former aide to former Sen. Frank Church, has strongly criticized the Reagan Administration's plans to help reduce federal deficits by selling $17 billion worth of federal property.

LaRocco said Craig has tacitly approved of the plan because he has not spoken out against the proposal, which has caused controversy in Idaho where there are 33 million acres of federal land.

Craig, however, has maintained LaRocco and other western Democrats are exploiting the issue for political purposes. The incumbent said current law

Politicians covet



Wyoming conservationists have had the unique experience of watching 1982 candidates try to prove that they are better environmentalists than their opponents. Polls have apparently shown that the environmental vote is the state's swing vote, particularly in the gubernatorial race and "environmentalists" are popping up in unexpected places.

The most obvious example of this trend is Republican gubernatorial candidate Warren Morton. Morton, an oil man from Casper, long-time state legislator and former speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives, is the sort of fellow who vigorously disassociated himself from environmentalists and their ilk during his House terms. Now his media ads are portraying him as a leader in environmental protection during his terms in the state legislature, much to the surprise of conservation lobbyists who worked on the bills.

Morton's opponent is incumbent Democrat Ed Herschler, who is running for an unprecedented third term. The third-term issue is likely to hurt Herschler in predominantly Republican Wyoming, where most residents don't

Running for the middle in Colorado

September primaries in Colorado signaled a return to moderate, middle-of-the-road candidates. Defeated within the Republican party were such controversial political figures as state representative Bob Stephenson, a leader in book-banning crusades, and Representative Frank Randall, another hard-line right-winger, also of Colorado Springs. Democrat George Boley, sometimes termed a "closet Republican," lost the primary in the heavily Democratic Pueblo district. The absence of these state legislators is expected to boost Governor Richard Lamm's standing with the legislature. Stephenson, Randall and Boley were frequent opponents of his proposals.

Lamm, seeking his third term as governor, charges the Republican-controlled legislature with blocking many of his programs. Lamm's opponent, Aurora veterinarian John Fuhr, served eight years in the legislature and was speaker of the Colorado House during two of those terms. He cites Lamm's vetoes and the "confrontational nature" of the Lamm administration as working against the better interests of the state. Still, Lamm maintains a broad base of support in Colorado and is considered very electable in November.

In the race for the U.S. House of Representatives second congressional district, Tim Wirth is seeking a fifth term. He faces Republican John Buechner, a University of Colorado political science professor, who basically agrees with Wirth on several issues, including the need for nuclear arms limitations. The redesigned second district includes Boulder, parts of Adams county, and several mountain counties and has slightly more registered Democrats than Republicans.

In the newly formed sixth congressional district, moderate liberal Democrat Steve Hogan squares off against moderate conservative Jack Swigert. The area, registered heavily Republican, is a horseshoe-shaped district carved out of the eastern, southern, and western Denver suburbs. Swigert, a former astronaut, is favored here, but Hogan, an Aurora city councilman, can count on strong support in his part of the district.

Colorado's fifth district campaign was labeled by *Time* and the *Christian Science Monitor* as one of the 10 most interesting House races in the U.S. this year. This strongly conservative district, centered around Colorado Springs, includes some of Arapahoe County's suburbs, the western mountains of Jefferson County and several central Colorado counties. Incumbent Ken Kramer, a very conservative Republican, favors a constitutional amendment that would settle the national debt, in part by selling off federal lands. His calls for increased military spending are welcomed in the Colorado Springs area which is dominated by the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base and NORAD. However, challenger Tom Cronin so far seems to be a strong contender. As evidenced by the recent defeats of other ultra-right politicians, many observers feel voters want a representative who can avoid strident confrontations.

Representing the huge third congressional district, Pueblo-based Ray Kogovsek faces Dillon Republican Tom Wiens. If voters in the district decide to elect a western slope resident, political newcomer Wiens might upset Kogovsek, a two-term incumbent.

In most races throughout Colorado, voters seem to be leaning toward moderate, low-key representatives who can work out meaningful compromises for a wide spectrum of constituents.

— *Deidre Duncan*

Idaho's budget

requires congressional approval before any massive sales, and he said administration officials have assured him there will be public hearings before any such action. Craig said he would be opposed to large sales of land now used for logging, mining and grazing, but he said he does support the sale of "surplus" land.

Earlier in the campaign, LaRocco called for an immediate freeze on nuclear weapons and blasted Craig for voting against such a measure in Congress.

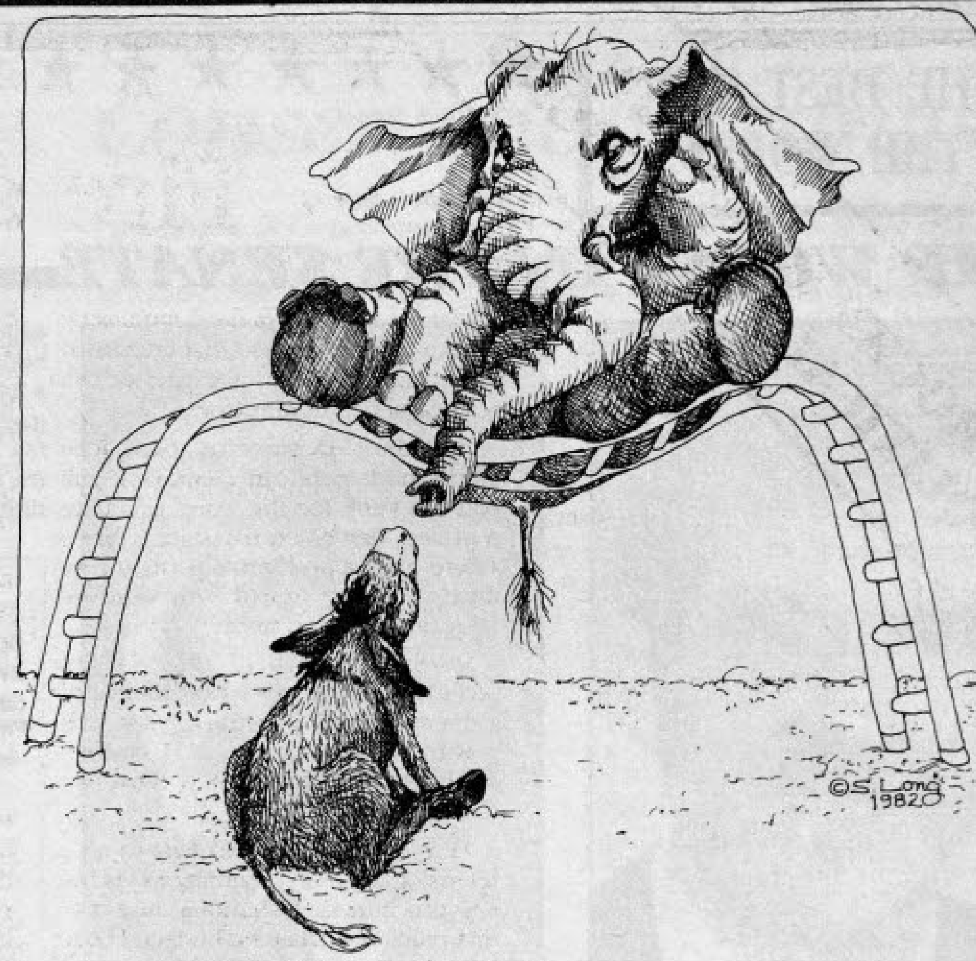
Meanwhile, LaRocco took the opportunity to say he presents a serious challenge to Craig after Craig recently sent out a fundraising letter saying he must raise another $90,000 or face "almost certain defeat." Craig's aides said the letter did not mean the congressman thinks he will lose, but LaRocco said the appeal "indicates I am gaining momentum in this race — and Craig knows it."

In the Attorney General race candidates Jim Jones and J.D. Williams are sparring over the right-to-work issue.

Jones, a Republican attorney from Jerome, has been pressuring Democrat Williams to spell out his position on a right-to-work law in Idaho. This issue crops up periodically and did so during the last legislative session when the Republican-controlled legislature sent Gov. John Evans a bill prohibiting closed shops. Evans vetoed the measure. Jones claims Williams won union support by privately telling labor he opposes right-to-work.

But Williams, a southeastern Idaho county prosecutor, has refused throughout the campaign to take a public position because he said he does not want to prejudice any future legal opinions he may have to deliver on the issue.

— Ellen Marks



Wyoming's green vote

like things to be out of the ordinary. The governor is favored by most state conservationists, though his record is spotty, at best. He has, for instance, made concessions to the uranium industry on Nuclear Regulatory Commission jurisdiction in the state, refusing to take state supremacy in uranium reclamation. His water development program, passed in the last legislative session, is not well thought out. However, he has stood solidly behind the departments charged with environmental regulation, has strongly favored tough severance taxes and pushed environmental reforms over his eight years.

In some ways, a more interesting race has been going on for U.S. Senate, which features Democrat Rodger McDaniel against Republican incumbent Malcolm Wallop. There is a clear difference in both style and substance between the two men, Wallop being very conservative and McDaniel simply conservative-to-moderate. Wallop has tried to paint McDaniel as a "liberal," with some degree of success, but the term is not very accurate in the New Deal/Great Society sense.

Neither candidate seems to have a very clear image among the voters. This is all the more surprising in Wallop's case, since he has been in office for six years.

McDaniel is young, 33, and his political experience has been largely limited to his service in the Wyoming House and Senate, where he was a capable but undistinguished legislator. He is, however, bright and articulate. He has a very sound conservation record and is a leader in local opposition to oil and gas drilling in the Wyoming wilderness areas and for greater wilderness acreage for the state.

Wallop was elected in 1976 with the strong backing of conservationists. He has been little but a disappointment to them since. The Wyoming wilderness bill, which has passed the Senate energy committee, is considered to be Wallop's vehicle, though the other delegation members deny that. State conservationists say the bill is worse than nothing at all.

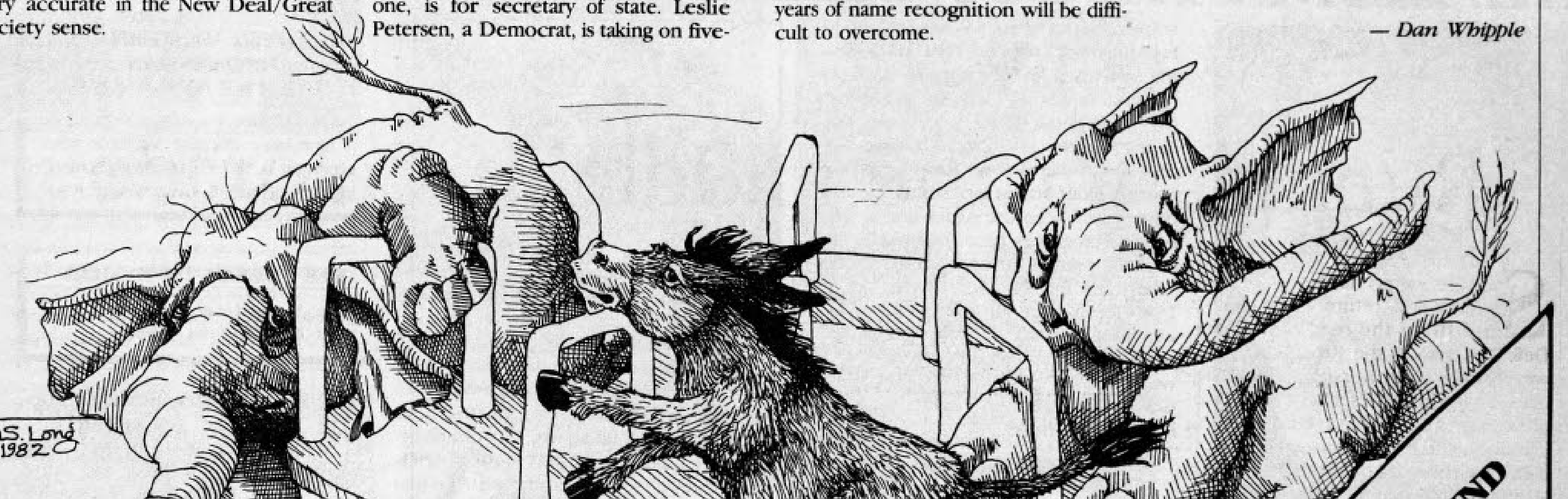
Another interesting race, though not strictly an environmentally-oriented one, is for secretary of state. Leslie Petersen, a Democrat, is taking on five-term incumbent Republican Thyra Thomson. Petersen is the most prominent leader of the conservation movement in Wyoming and has been its most active and effective spokesperson for over a decade. She decided to run on the heels of Thomson's decision not to authorize a ballot initiative that would have guaranteed in-stream flow for fish and wildlife. Supporters had gathered over 30,000 signatures on petitions.

The secretary of state is Wyoming's second-highest elective office, but Thomson tends to view her job primarily as the registrant of corporations that want to do business in the state. When Petersen challenged the incumbent to a debate, Thomson replied that there wasn't much to debate because her duties were spelled out in the constitution. However, the secretary of state sits on nine separate boards and commissions and could, if she chose, exercise a tremendous amount of power. Observers think that Petersen, if elected, could turn the job into a true lieutenant governor's position, rather than a clerk's office. However, twenty years of name recognition will be difficult to overcome.

In state legislative races, the overall crop of candidates statewide seems to indicate a continuing trend, noticeable over the last few years, toward a more moderate, environmentally-aware legislature. The "good-old-boy" system seems to be suffering some damage as the legislators become increasingly sophisticated. A few state candidates indicating this trend in the state senate races are: Charles Scott (R-Natrona), former board member of the Wyoming Outdoor Council and current board member of the High Country Foundation, which publishes this paper; Jack Pugh (D-Sweetwater), another former WOC board member; John Vinich (D-Fremont), maverick Democratic state legislator; and Vinich's opponent, Frank Dusl (R-Fremont), a moderate state legislator.

In House races, notable candidates are: Lynn Dickey, a Democrat in Sheridan County, former staff director of the Powder River Basin Resource Council and a director of the High Country Foundation; and Barbara Dobos, a Natrona County Democrat.

— Dan Whipple



THE BEST AND THE WORST

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

(continued from page 1)

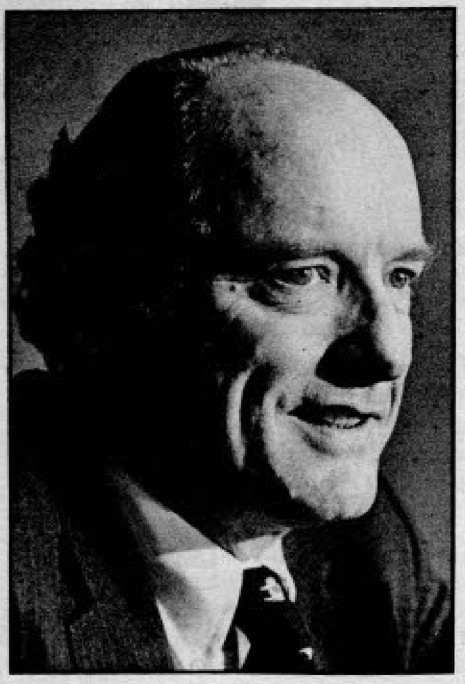
THE WORST IN THE SENATE

Steve Symms (R-Idaho)

Symms is in a class by himself. One observer said, "If Symms is for something, it is worth 15 votes for the opposition." Symms has a knee-jerk affection for polluting industries, but he doesn't do his homework so he can't be an effective spokesman even for them. He is regarded as "flaky" by his colleagues and does not wield much influence among them. In opposition to a gun control bill several years ago, he appeared at a press conference armed with two revolvers and he once forged voter registration cards for seven Democrats on a committee considering easier voter registration laws to prove how flawed the proposed system was.

A POLITICAL RIDDLE

Q. What state has a senator dumber than Iowa's Roger Jepsen (R)?
A. Iowa. Charles Grassley (R).



Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.)

Not in Symms' class, but generally regarded as an ineffectual senator. Wallop is a marked contrast to his Wyoming colleague Simpson. Simpson has accomplished much while sitting on relatively obscure committees. Wallop sits on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate and chairs that committee's Public Lands and Reserved Water subcommittee, important positions for a westerner. Nevertheless, he has been in the forefront of very little legislation. Said one congressional staffer, "The only thing that seems to have gotten him excited was the inheritance tax reform and that directly affected his ranch." Wallop is seen as impatient and hot-tempered, not good qualities to bring to a deliberative body. One of his strengths is his friendship with energy committee chairman James McClure, with whom he works well.He plays the heavy in the committee, doing much of McClure's dirty work while McClure looks after Wallop's interests. In one committee hearing on the American Conservation Corps, which Wallop opposed, actor Raymond Burr testified in favor of the legislation. Burr had the gallery in the palm of his hand and was building to the climax of his remarks when Wallop, the chairman, simply gavelled him down, telling Burr that his five minutes were up, losing points with the audience and enhancing his reputation as a rude and impatient man.

MOST DIABOLICAL

Rep. Phil Burton (D-Calif.) — Devises legislative strategy sometimes described as "medieval in its fiendishness."

BEST WESTERN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) — Critics say his higher ambitions are weakening his legislative effectiveness.

Max Baucus (D-Mont.)

When Baucus was elected in 1978, there were high hopes for him among the conservation community. He votes "correctly" but does not take a leadership role in anything. On Montana issues, he lives in fear of Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.), who was once described as "the meanest man in the Senate." Unlike Steve Symms, however, Baucus is not a hopeless case. He was a leader in the debate against prayer in the schools, a difficult position for a senator from conservative Montana. When something hits very close to his deeply felt convictions, Baucus will fight for it. Part of his problem simply stems from being a junior senator in the minority party. It is difficult to exercise a lot of clout from that position.

KISS OF DEATH

If you vehemently opposed legislation and wanted to be sure it would lose on the Senate floor, you would pick the following three co-sponsors:

Steve Symms (R-Idaho) — see accompanying story.

Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) — The New Right darling of the media is a famed anti-abortion, anti-Equal Rights Amendment fanatic. The recent debate and filibuster over the constitutional amendment on abortion proved what most people already knew — if Helms sponsored the "Star-Spangled Banner," it wouldn't be the national anthem.

S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.) — would be asleep during the debate.

(Insiders note: Conservationists breathed a sigh of relief when they discovered that the proposed legislation to release for development federal lands not selected for wilderness was sponsored by Helms and Hayakawa.)

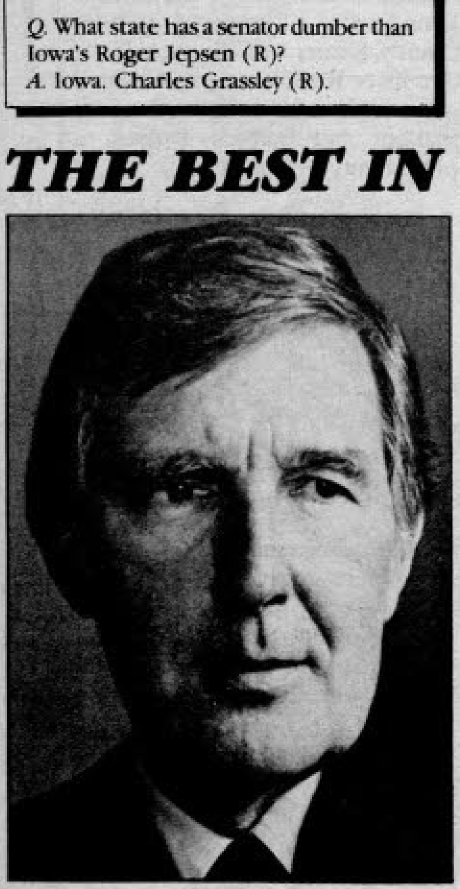
MOST TENACIOUS

Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) — Gets what he wants whether anyone else wants it or not.

WORST WESTERN SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW RIGHT (BESIDES STEVE SYMMS)

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) — Ineffective and built to stay that way.

THE BEST IN THE HOUSE



Morris Udall (D-Ariz.)

Udall is one of the most popular men in Congress, with both Republicans and Democrats. He is extremely well-respected and rarely loses a bill that he supports. He is regarded by friend and foe alike as one of the most effective legislators in the entire Congress, not just from the Rockies. His conservation stances are well-known. One conservation lobbyist said, "If Udall isn't for it, it isn't going to pass." He disappointed some of his admirers a few years ago in backing off of a reform of the 1872 Mining Law when Arizona copper interests let up a loud howl. Said another lobbyist, "We know there won't be any changes in the 1872 law while Udall is in office." Udall is now working his way toward elder statesman status. He has never really been the super-liberal that he has sometimes been painted — he had a 61 percent rating from the liberal Americans for Democratic Action in 1980, for instance. He is known as a man who's easy to talk to, who grasps the points quickly and when convinced will work for his position. He has been slowed somewhat in recent years by Parkinson's Disease.

OVERRATED

Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) — A friend of the president's, but that's about it.

Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) — A good conservation record, but he shoots from the hip.

BEST HOUSE SPONSORS OF CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) — see accompanying story.

John Seiberling (D-Ohio) — Seen as plodding, but thorough and effective.

Phil Burton (D-Calif.) — For diabolical legislative strategy.

Tim Wirth (D-Colo.)

Hampered throughout his career by a varied and schizophrenic constituency in his district, Wirth may now become a more visible congressman since he has been redistricted into a safer seat. He is fifth in seniority on the important Energy and Environment Committee, where he has become a real power. A great many people — pro and con — credit him with almost single-handedly stopping the Energy Mobilization Board, the Carter administration's proposal to "streamline" synthetic fuel project facility siting, mostly by overriding environmental protections and state facility siting protections. Persuasive and well-spoken, he may begin to be used by the Democrats as a party spokesman on national issues.

BEST WESTERN SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW RIGHT

Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) — A tenacious, effective legislator who gets what he wants, Armstrong is ideologically oriented, but not abrasively so.

BEST SENSE OF HUMOR

Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.)
Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.)

Pat Williams (D-Mont.)

Williams is a Democrat in the Montana populist sense. He's very likeable and "if you were going to pick someone to go out and have a beer with, he'd be the one." Moreover, he has backbone and is willing to stick his neck out on a number of issues. He has gone to the wall and won on the Wilderness Protection Act and efforts to prevent oil and gas drilling in the Bob Marshall Wilder-

MORE OF THE BEST OF THE HOUSE

ness in Montana. He also fought the Libby Dam. He is considered a rising young star in the Morris Udall mold.

Dick Cheney (R-Wyo.)

Although he has only been in Congress since 1978, Cheney has already established himself as one of the West's slickest and most effective congressmen. He is conservative, but not generally associated with the moralistic approach of the New Right. If anything, he is a little too amoral. Said one congressional staffer, "He seems to have no scruples or positions of his own." The word most often used to describe Cheney is "smart." Sometimes, "very smart." Environmental issues don't seem to interest Wyoming's only congressman very much, and one conservation lobbyist described him as, "The most dangerous man in the House on the environment." Said this source, "He's a very deceptive guy. He gives the illusion in his speeches of being in favor of environmental legislation, but when it comes to the real nitty-gritty, he comes up with the amendments that weaken the bill." However, he is definitely the Republican brains on the Interior Committee. A number of industry people thought that Cheney would be able to make a saving compromise on the Seiberling-Lujan bill which would prevent oil and gas drilling in wilderness areas, but he lost that battle as the legislation went through without major amendments. Though seen as a carpetbagger by some Wyoming residents because of his long absence from the state — he worked for Gerald Ford in Congress and later as his chief of staff in the White House — Cheney is so secure in his seat that this year he could afford to nearly ignore his own race and serve as campaign manager for the Wyoming Republican gubernatorial candidate.

UNDERRATED

Rep. James Weaver (D-Ore.) — Considered ineffective by many, he works in mysterious ways.

Conservation ratings

The League of Conservation Voters is a national, non-partisan group established in 1970 to give political assistance to conservation-oriented political candidates. Every year, LCV analyzes the voting records of every representative and senator and rates them regarding their environmental record. *High Country News* is publishing the 1981 ratings of Rocky Mountain congressmen and congresswomen below. The higher the number, the better the environmental record. A rating of 100 is perfect pro-environment; zero, perfect anti-environment.

The LCV rating of senators is based on 16 votes taken in 1981. Included are the votes on the confirmation of Interior Secretary James Watt and Assistant Agriculture Secretary John Crowell, as well as 14 national environmental issues, many of which dealt with funding in the federal budget.

In the House ratings, LCV considered 14 issue votes and two house resolution votes. For further information, contact LCV at 317 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. Membership is $15 per year.

ARIZONA	
Sen. Barry Goldwater (R)	13
Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D)	31
Rep. John Rhodes (R)	7
Rep. Morris Udall (D)	76
Rep. Bob Stump (D)	0
Rep. Eldon Rudd (R)	0

COLORADO	
Sen. William Armstrong (R)	26
Sen. Gary Hart (D)	72
Rep. Pat Schroeder (D)	91
Rep. Tim Wirth (D)	73
Rep. Ray Kogovsek (D)	57
Rep. Hank Brown (R)	50
Rep. Ken Kramer (R)	14

IDAHO	
Sen. Steve Symms (R)	19
Sen. James McClure (R)	19
Rep. Larry Craig (R)	14
Rep. George Hansen (R)	7

MONTANA	
Sen. John Melcher (D)	52
Sen. Max Baucus (D)	75
Rep. Pat Williams (D)	79
Rep. Ron Marlenee (R)	22

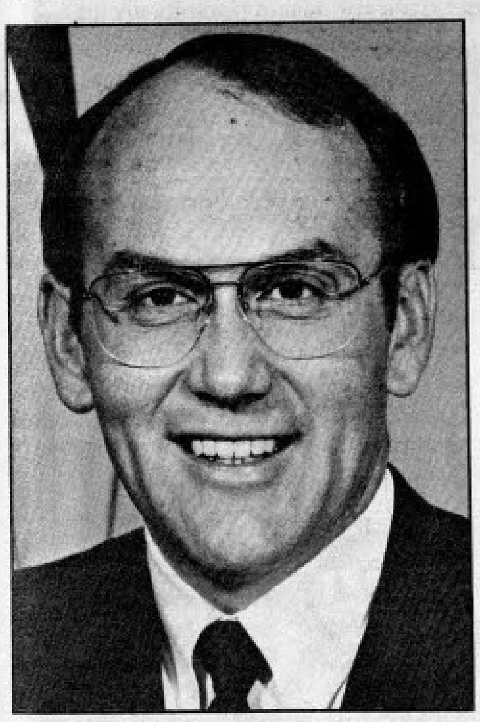
NEW MEXICO	
Sen. Pete Domenici (R)	25
Sen. Harrison Schmidt (R)	5
Rep. Manuel Lujan (R)	14
Rep. Joe Skeen (R)	7

NORTH DAKOTA	
Sen. Mark Andrews (R)	19
Sen. Quentin Burdick (D)	50
Rep. Byron Dorgan (D)	71

UTAH	
Sen. Orrin Hatch (R)	31
Sen. Jake Garn (R)	31
Rep. James Hansen (R)	7
Rep. Dan Marriott (R)	7

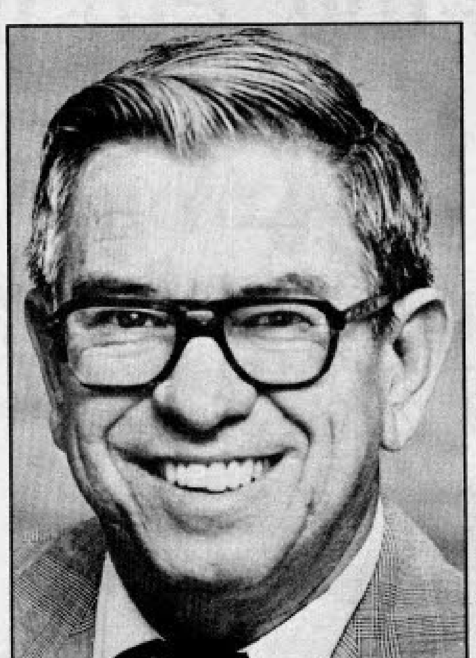
WYOMING	
Sen. Alan Simpson (R)	38
Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R)	25
Rep. Dick Cheney (R)	6

THE WORST IN THE HOUSE



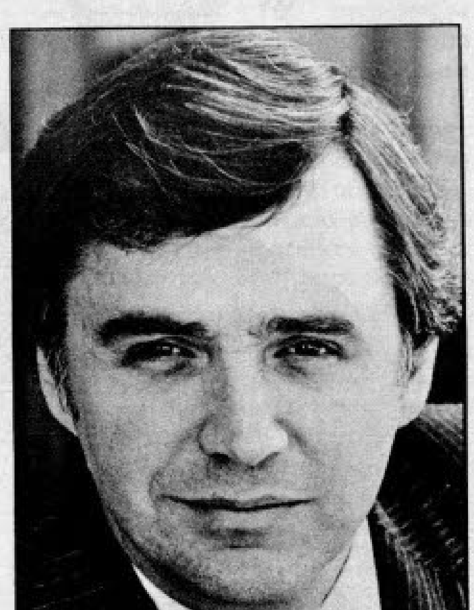
Larry Craig (R-Idaho)

Maybe it's in the water. Craig comes from the same congressional district that elected Steve Symms to four terms. Washington watchers thought that no one could be worse than Symms — now they aren't so sure. Craig's demeanor is scholarly and almost monastic. However, said one staffer, "He just appears thoughtful. It's just a facade. He's not at all smart." He sits on the Interior Committee, an important assignment for any western congressman, but his principal contribution so far seems to be annoying his colleagues. In one incident, the entire Florida delegation and the governor supported legislation withdrawing an area in Florida from phosphate mining. Craig apparently thought this was a terrible waste of phosphate, and proposed an amendment that would have required the state to forego an amount of federal money equal to the sum the state would have realized had the phosphate been mined. When a colleague pointed out that the state was already doing that by not mining the phosphate in the first place, Craig was undaunted. Even committee conservatives couldn't see much sense in the approach as they considered giving up double the value of any withdrawn areas, like wilderness or military reservations, in their own states. The amendment was defeated on a voice vote. Showing his only moments of restraint in the debate, Craig did not insist on a roll call.



Manuel Lujan (R-N.M.)

Lujan's problem is not so much what he's done as what he hasn't done. He is the ranking Republican on the House Interior Committee and his seniority should give him considerable clout, even in the Democratically-controlled House. However, it hasn't. A good example is his response to the wilderness leasing threat. Upon learning that a New Mexico wilderness area was an oil and gas leasing target (and, not coincidentally, under considerable constituent pressure), Lujan offered legislation to prohibit the leasing. When the administration reacted however, Lujan "compromised" by dropping his efforts in return for an administration promise to study the issue. One observer said at the time, "They must have taken him into a small room and beaten him up. That compromise was no compromise at all." Long-time Lujan watchers weren't surprised, though. He is known as an indecisive legislator.



Ray Kogovsek (D-Colo.)

A likeable second-term congressman representing southern Colorado, Kogovsek has a reputation for changing his position on an issue as often as Italy changes governments. He promised Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) that he would vote Seiberling's way on the Parks Protection Act, then voted against him. According to one lobbyist, "He's undecided until the very end. If he would be more consistent, he wouldn't offend so many of his friends. Most interest groups will understand if you say, 'Well, I have to be against you on this issue.' But Kogo waffles a lot." Part of the problem is his assessment of his district. He won by only 366 votes against his opponent in his first effort in 1978. Perhaps if he felt stronger at home, he would be more in the forefront.

WILL BE MISSED (FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER)

Some congressmen, no longer in office, whose various talents will be missed:

Sen. William Scott (R-Virginia) — Once called a press conference to deny that he was the dumbest man in the Senate.

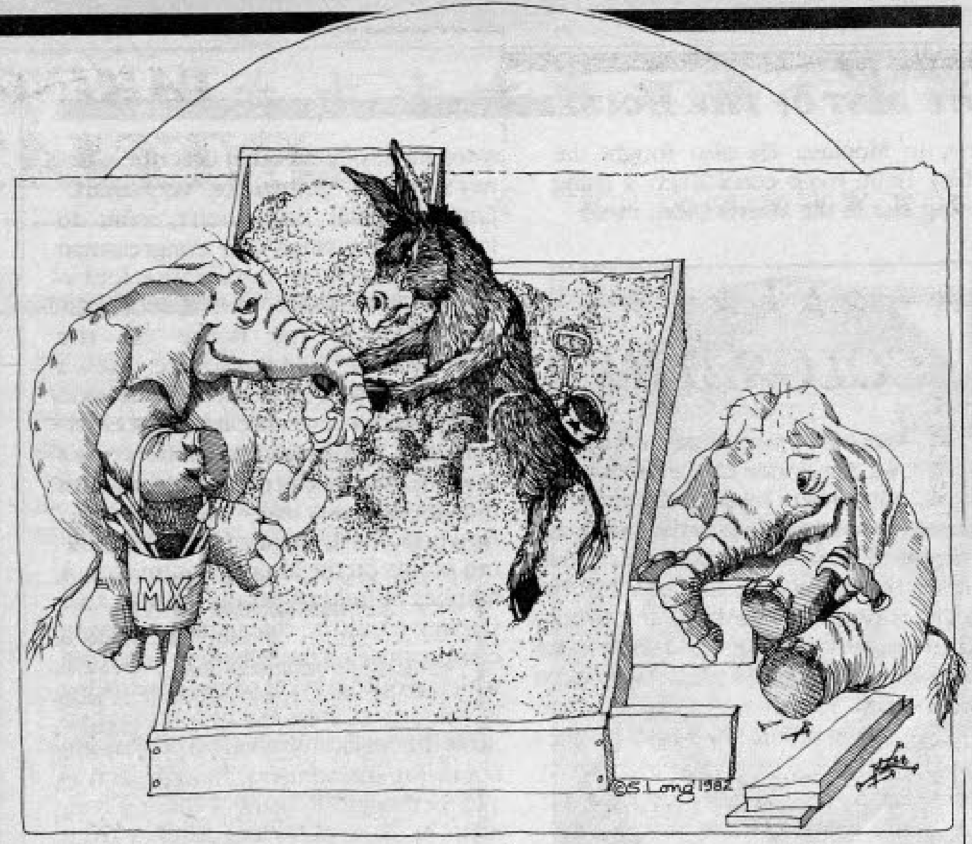
Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) — Defeated by Steve Symms (which would be enough to qualify him for this category), he left behind an outstanding record in environmental affairs.

Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) — Metcalf, who died in 1978, had an excellent environmental record and was the sort of senator "who was so beloved that people would do things for him."

Rep. Jim Santini (D-Nev.) — Santini was an up-and-coming Democrat who had developed a specialty in mines and mining on the Interior Committee. He lost his primary race to take Howard Cannon's Senate seat. His place as a spokesman for the mining industry will probably be taken by Utah's Dan Marriott (R).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLITICAL PLAYGROUND
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

GOP holding fast in Utah



In Utah, Republicans are well out in front in the U.S. Senate and House races and there are no indications that the GOP domination of the Utah legislature will lessen significantly.

One observer predicts that federal election campaign costs could easily exceed $4 million, with $3 million or more being spent in the Senate race pitting incumbent Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch against Democratic challenger Ted Wilson, mayor of Salt Lake.

National attention has come to focus on the Hatch-Wilson race, which is seen as a test of the staying power of the Republican surge and conservative Reagan policies voted in in 1980.

As chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Services Committee, Hatch has been a strong advocate of Reagan policies and a champion of many conservative New Right issues such as abortion, school prayer and the balanced budget amendment.

Wilson portrays himself as a fiscal conservative, a moderate on social issues and more of a progressive on energy and environmental concerns.

Hatch and Wilson show dramatic differences on environmental issues. Hatch is an active proponent of the Sagebrush Rebellion, while Wilson is opposed. Hatch is sponsor of a Clean Air Act amendment that some environmental groups say would have negative air quality effects. Wilson opposes the Hatch amendment.

Another race drawing considerable attention is the showdown between Republican Congressman Dan Marriott and State Sen. Frances Farley for Utah's second congressional seat, which encompasses most of Salt Lake County. Seeking his fourth term, Marriott is a mainstream Republican, moderate enough to appeal to the fairly diverse Salt Lake area electorate, yet strongly supportive of most Reagan administration budget and tax initiatives.

Farley, a Salt Lake City businesswoman who led the fight against basing the mobile MX missile in Utah and Nevada, supports a nuclear freeze and has taken a strong position against the Gibson Dome waste facility.

Polls show Farley trailing Marriott by more than 10 percent, with the gap narrowing somewhat. Republican party officials say the Marriott-Farley contest is the only one they are even mildly concerned about. They see Farley as a tenacious opponent with a large corps of volunteers who can help to get out the vote. One other factor is the lead Ted Wilson shows over Orrin Hatch in the Salt Lake area, which some observers speculate may rub off on Farley.

Marriott, like Hatch and the other Republican candidates, has more than three times the campaign dollars Farley does. As in other years, Marriot is expected to use the largest part of his campaign treasury for an advertising blitz in the last weeks of the campaign — something Farley will find hard to overcome given her relatively limited resources.

In Utah's first congressional district, which covers all of the state north of Salt Lake County, first term Rep. Jim Hansen, a straight line Reagan conservative, is expected to trounce Ogden Mayor Steve Dirks, a political veteran without campaign resources. Once thought to have the best chance of any major Democratic candidate in the state, Dirks has had little luck in raising enough money to challenge Hansen.

In the newly created third congressional district south of Salt Lake County, Brigham Young University statistics professor Howard Nielson, a former Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, shows a strong lead over Hank Huish, a retired General Steel Corporation executive. Huish is running as an independent after an election filing foul up left him off the Democratic ticket.

Republicans hold a veto-proof two-thirds majority in the state Senate and House. And while there is little hope the Democrats will break that majority, the resignation of several Republican state representatives and the surprising defeat of some of the more conservative members of the Utah House in the primary election means the Utah state legislature will have a new look in January. And that may be the only thing Governor Scott Matheson, the only Democrat holding statewide office, has to smile about once the election results are in.

— Jess Funk

Montana races PAC-ing 'em in

Eight ballot issues, three congressional races and a slate of unusual state legislative races highlight the 1982 Montana election. While the Democrats are digging hard to win back the state house, the Republicans believe they might capture their second U.S. Senate seat in history.

The hottest major race in Montana is between Sen. John Melcher, a moderate Democrat, and challenger Larry Williams, a Kalispell investments counselor. The Republicans, teamed up with the National Conservative Political Action Committee, are gunning for the senator whom columnist Jack Anderson has dubbed "the meanest man in the Senate."

Democrat Pat Williams, Montana's western district congressman, faces Bob Davies, a political unknown from Bozeman. A favorite of conservationists and organized labor, Williams has emerged as a national leader in the effort to back James Watt's experiments with wilderness mineral leasing. Davies' aggressive attack on Williams' liberal voting record has had little effect against the popular representative. Nor will Davies' ties to the John Birch Society help him in the liberal western district.

In the eastern district, the perennially vulnerable Rep. Ron Marlenee, a Republican, is campaigning against rancher Howard Lyman. Marlenee has already brought James Watt to a Billings fundraiser, and has accused Democratic Gov. Ted Schwinden of being "vicious" in an otherwise dull campaign. The inexperienced Lyman is running hard, and perhaps has a chance of unseating the only Montana congressman to vote for oil and gas drilling in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

In state legislative races, a growing, behind-the-scenes force is stirring things up. The Montana Committee for an Effective Legislature (MontCEL), comprised of representatives from agriculture, labor, education, women's groups and conservation, helped knock off two of Montana's "dirty dozen" in the 1982 primary.

Sen. Bill Hafferman, a Libby Democrat and a proponent of unbridled development, fell to newcomer John Mohar in the primary. And Democrat Tom Conroy of Hardin lost to Ramona Howe of the Crow Reservation. Backed by contributions from Shell Oil, which owns coal on the reservation, Conroy is mounting an aggressive write-in campaign that has polarized the Anglo and Indian communities in the district.

Organized in 1978 to combat the New Right in Montana, MontCEL has become the most effective political action committee in the state. Of 28 registered Montana PAC's, 20 represent businesses and industries.

— Don Snow

TAKING THE INITIATIVES

COLORADO

There are three citizen initiatives up for a vote in Colorado this November. Topping the three in controversy and dollars is the beverage container reuse and recycling act. The other two initiatives are a plan for the conversion of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons manufacturing facility near Denver and an option to allow grocery stores to sell wine.

The "Bottle Bill" battle has shaped up into a million dollar campaign, with financial reports filed so far showing each side spending close to half a million dollars.

If passed, the bill would require a five-cent deposit on all beer and soft drink containers. Proponents say that in other states, similar legislation has resulted in a reduction of roadside litter, reduced demand for energy and materials, created new jobs and reduced product costs. Opponents, which include retail outlets for beverages, say that the current voluntary recycling effort controls litter problems well enough now. They also complain that such a law would greatly increase handling costs and would result in declining sales (*HCN*, 8/20/82).

The Rocky Flats initiative would place a voluntary income tax "checkoff," similar to the current non-game wildlife checkoff, on the Colorado income tax return. Taxpayers could voluntarily donate any amount of their Colorado tax refund to the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Conversion Fund. That fund would be used to publicize the hazards of processing plutonium and producing nuclear weapons, and to promote the conversion of the plant's facilities, aid in relocating the employees and finance an inventory of the plant.

Andrea O'Conor, Boulder regional coordinator for the "Yes on 6 (the initiative number) Committee," said the amendment does not propose a plan for conversion or even suggest what the plant should be converted to. She said that decision should come after an inventory of the area's radioactivity has been conducted.

Amendment 7, if passed, would allow 14 percent alcohol to be sold in sealed containers in grocery and convenience stores. It is opposed by a coalition of groups including liquor store owners and the Colorado Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students Association. The PTSA objects because of its "long-standing concerns about drug and alcohol abuse among minors and teenagers," according to spokesperson Cathy Reul. Proponents of the amendment say selling wine in grocery stores provides more convenience to shoppers.

What didn't make it onto the November 2 ballot in Colorado still has citizens buzzing. In a dramatic statement September 10, Colorado Secretary of State Mary Estill Buchanan denied a ballot space to the move to legalize casino gambling, charging that the petition drive was "an unprecedented insult to the people of Colorado." In her statement, Buchanan sited forgeries, irregularities in signature gathering, and improper notarization as reasons for the denial.

The Committee for Economic Development and Relief claimed that gambling could benefit economically depressed areas of the state but acknowledged that now they may have to wait until 1984 to reach the ballot again. Meanwhile, Buchanan turned the committee's petitions over to Denver District Attorney Dale Tooley for a grand jury investigation.

Also on hold is the Impact Initiative, a five percent severance tax proposal for metallic and mineral fuels. Only 5,000 signatures short of the 38,896 needed, Impact workers were "very frustrated" when they discovered in July that they had only one day left to file their petitions rather than another week, as they had thought, said Morrey Wolfson, secretary of the group. Impact ended the drive in July but continues to meet and plans to lobby the state legislature to push for its goals. Opponents of the initiative claimed an additional tax would lower profits for mining operations, while those in favor argued that the proposed trust fund and assistance to areas impacted by mineral development was badly needed in the state.

Four other initiatives were put on the ballot by the Colorado state legislature.

Number 1 would revise the state's property tax assessment procedures. Number 2 would allow judges to deny bail, under certain circumstances, to defendants involved in crimes of violence and to repeat offenders. Number 3 would strengthen procedures for removal or disciplining of judges found in violation of specific parts of the Colorado Code of Judicial Conduct.

The final legislative initiative, Number 4, asks for elimination of the "Governor's Call," the policy that allows the Colorado legislature to consider only those items (with the exception of revenue raising measures) selected by the governor. During odd-numbered years, the legislature sets its own agenda. The League of Women Voters of Colorado, proponents of the initiative, maintain the current procedure is a violation of the separation of powers philosophy and gives the executive branch too much authority.

— Deidre Duncan

MONTANA

In Montana, none of the 1982 ballot issues has yet spurred the extravagant spending of 1980, when Montanans defeated a recycling initiative and banned the disposal of uranium mill tailings. But a few of the '82 issues carry a strongly environmental flavor.

Legislative Referendum 89, placed on the ballot by last year's legislature, would remove the uranium tailings ban and substitute a complicated regulatory system for tailings control. This marks the fourth consecutive election in which a nuclear power issue has appeared before the voters, ironically in a state that has no nuclear energy industry and no uranium mining. The banner again unfurls for a "nuclear-free Montana."

But nuclear-free it isn't, and that's what Initiative 91 is all about. Placed on the ballot by Citizens for an MX-Free Montana, I-91 expresses Montana's opposition to the MX. Montana's northern tier is already pockmarked with Minuteman missle silos, which the Defense Department wants to re-arm with the multiple-warhead MX. With no significant opposition, I-91 is virtually assured of passage.

Montana Initiative 95, written by Democratic legislators Daniel Kemmis of Missoula and Tom Towe of Billings, would divert coal-tax trust fund monies into an in-state economic development fund. The initiative won the support of Democratic Governor Ted Schwinden after Kemmis and Towe conceded to broaden the scope of investments allowed under the initiative. The state legislature will have the authority to nominate eligible businesses, provided that they are environmentally benign and owned by Montanans. One-fourth of the trust fund's annual income would be invested in-state.

Conservationists have cautiously endorsed the initiative, partly in an effort to dissolve their image as anti-growth. There is growing sentiment among Montana conservationists that alternative economic development should become a priority issue. I-95 is viewed as a first step.

Other ballot issues would restore annual legislative sessions, expand authorized gambling to blackjack and electronic card games, and abolish the quota-system, based on population, for restuarant beer and wine licenses.

— Don Snow

UTAH

The state of Utah has four constitutional amendments on the ballot this year and only one has raised any controversy. That one is a major revision of Utah's revenue and taxation article, which would give residential property owners a 45 percent tax break.

The revenue and taxation proposition is composed of several adjustments to current law. But it is the 45 percent tax exemption that has set Utah businessmen against public officials in what Roger Tew, director of the Utah Constitutional Revision Commission, said is the hottest amendment Utah has seen in quite some time. Tew said 90 percent of the legislature voted for placing the amendment on the ballot. He said that makes for an interesting situation because the legislature is two-thirds Republican and very pro-business. It is the business and industry segments that are opposed to the tax break.

The second proposition would change the way Utah legislators are paid. The officials are currently paid $25 per day, plus $15 per day for expenses reimbursement. The amendment would remove the dollar limitations and set up salaries and a reimbursement procedure.

The third proposition would require that a legislator live within his or her district for the entire term of office. The fourth amendment would eliminate a law that forbids any officer, agent or employee of any corporation that holds a business license to hold public office.

— Carol Jones

IDAHO

Three low-key initiatives will appear before Idaho voters in November. One would give homeowners a 50 percent property tax break, one would prohibit the passage of any legislation that would ban the use of nuclear energy in the state and the third would allow someone other than a dentist to put dentures in a patient's mouth.

The residential tax initiative would give homeowners a 50 percent or $50,000 — whichever is lowest — property exemption. The initiative has the support of Gov. John Evans (D) and a majority of state congressmen, and is opposed by large utilities and industries in the state. The idea, according to proponents, is that the money saved by residential taxpayers would go back into Idaho's ailing economy.

According to Janice Berndt of the Snake River Alliance, the John Birch Society is behind the "rather meaningless initiative" to keep nuclear energy options in the state safe from any opposing laws. If passed, the initiative would prohibit any legislation to ban the use of nuclear energy. Berndt said the idea seems like propaganda from the nuclear industry to try and "pump up" the good image of nuclear power. "There isn't even a chance of such anti-nuclear legislation passing the Idaho legislature anyway," Berndt said.

Pat Ford, director of the Idaho Conservation League, said he thought the initiative was started in response to the Snake River Alliance's attempt to place an initiative on the ballot that would have eliminated sales tax exemptions enjoyed by private contractors working with the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, a federal nuclear research and development lab. That initiative would have earmarked $250,000 from the new tax monies to set up an environmental monitoring system at INEL, Berndt said. However, the initiative failed to make the ballot.

The third initiative would allow denturists — denture makers who are not licensed dentists — to install dentures. Myran Schlechte, director of the Idaho legislative council, said that a similar initiative was a big deal in Oregon a few years ago, but it doesn't seem to have many people grinding their teeth in Idaho.

— Carol Jones

BULLETIN BOARD

FORTY MILE

The Bureau of Land Management is preparing a management plan for the Forty Mile Wild and Scenic River in Alaska. Mining along the river is a key issue. Public comment is crucial in determining the amount of mining that will be allowed. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the draft management plan for the Forty Mile, write to BLM, Forty Mile RAO, Box 307, Tok, Alaska 99780.

SOLAR WORKSHOPS

The Home Energy Workshop, a private corporation, will sponsor a solar electricity workshop on Oct. 23 in Ft. Collins, Colo. The workshop will give participants hands-on experience in constructing solar systems for homes. Registration is $25. For more information contact the Home Energy Workshop, 318 Whedbee St., Ft. Collins, Colo. 80524, or call (303) 482-9507. This workshop will also be held in Jackson Hole, Wyo. on Oct. 30. More information can be obtained by calling the Teton County Energy Council at (307) 733-6439 or (307) 733-2198.

IDAHO PHOTO CONTEST

The Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game's annual "Encounters of the Wild Kind" photo contest needs more entries. The contest has two divisions: color and black and white. Each division has four categories: scenic, wildlife, outdoor recreation and country living. All photographs must be taken in Idaho. Winning entries will be published in *Idaho Wildlife* magazine. The deadline for entries is October 31. For more information contact Royce Williams, Encounters of the Wild Kind Contest, Dept. of Fish and Game, 600 S. Walnut, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707.

GRAND CANYON PLAN

The National Park Service has released its "Environmental Assessment of Alternatives for Backcountry Management at Grand Canyon" for public review and comment. The assessment discusses options for management of the backcountry and identifies the Park Service's preferred alternative. Public workshops regarding the plan will be held: Oct. 19, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Oct. 21, Tucson, Ariz.; Oct. 27, Kanab, Utah. To obtain copies of the assessment or for more information contact Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Ariz. 86023.

MINING COMPUTERS

An updated catalog of over 400 computer programs useful to the mining industry, is available from the Bureau of Mines. "A Directory of Computer Programs Applicable to U.S. Mining Practices and Problems (Period 1970-1981)" contains information on computer programs related to mineral exploration, mine development and mine safety. Copies cost $36 and can be purchased from the Commerce Department's National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22161, or call (703) 487-4650. Specify order no. PB 82-253030.

BURNING ISSUE

The Bureau of Land Management has released a booklet that answers some commonly asked questions about firewood. The booklet includes information about gathering wood, the best types of wood for burning and safety. The booklet may be obtained free of charge by contacting BLM, Socorro District Office, P.O. Box 1219, Socorro, N.M. 87801, or calling (505) 835-0412.

FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS

The U.S. Dept. of Energy has published "Energy Projections to the Year 2000, July 1982 Update," focusing on domestic energy consumption, supplies of coal, oil, nuclear, natural gas and electricity supply. Copies of the report are available for $6 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401. Order by stock number 061-000-00595-1.

RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANTS

The Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation is awarding grants and low-interest loans for innovative renewable energy projects in Montana. The Department's "1982 Guidelines" booklet contains all necessary forms for applying for the grants and loans. The booklet also offers suggestions for preparing applications. Grant applications must be postmarked by Nov. 1 and loan applications must be postmarked by Jan. 1, 1983. To obtain a copy of the booklet write the Energy Division, DNRC, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, Mont. 59620 or call (406) 449-3940.

COPPER ON THE SILVER SCREEN

A film about copper is available to the public from the Bureau of Mines film library. In "Copper" you will discover the secrets of copper's atomic structure, thrill to the saga of copper's role in the building of civilization, and gasp at scenes of blasting at a huge open-pit mine in the American west. Prints of the 16-mm, 27½ minute film are available on a free-loan basis from Motion Pictures, Bureau of Mines, 4800 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, Penn. 15213.

PIPE DREAMS

The Bureau of Land Management has released its draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Frontier Pipeline. The draft EIS considers the environmental impacts of building the 300-mile pipeline from Summit County, Utah to Casper, Wyo. Three public hearings on the draft EIS are scheduled: Oct. 26, Casper, Wyo.; Oct. 27, Rock Springs, Wyo.; Oct. 28, Evanston, Wyo. Written comments on the draft EIS will be accepted through Nov. 19 and should be mailed to David Walter, District Manager, Rawlins District, P.O. Box 670, Rawlins, Wyo. 82301. Copies of the draft EIS can be obtained from Wyoming BLM offices in Cheyenne, Kemmerer, Rock Springs, Casper, Lander and Rawlins.

AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS

"Impacts Of Emerging Agricultural Trends On Fish And Wildlife Habitat" is a 303-page report which reviews the effects of agricultural use on natural resources. The report discusses impacts on fish and wildlife habitat caused by single cropping, increased use of pesticides and drainage of wetlands. Changes in management practices and future trends are also examined. Copies of the report cost $12.95 and may be ordered from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

DENVER ENERGY FORUM

The Denver Solar Energy Association will hold a renewable energy forum on Oct. 26 in Denver. The forum will feature representatives from industry, government, and community groups. Topics to be discussed include United States dependence on foreign energy and domestic energy policy. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 4595 Eliot St., Denver, Colo., and costs $3 (free to DSEA members). For more information call (303) 321-1645.

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20¢ per word, prepaid, $5 minimum. Rates vary for display advertising; write *HCN*, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520 or call (307) 332-6970 for further information.

STAFF POSITION, ILLINOIS SOUTH PROJECT. Collectively-run public interest organization. Organizing, research, advocacy on coal development issues. One year public interest experience necessary. $13,000 + benefits. For application: 116½ West Cherry, Herrin, IL 62948.

LEARN HOW the sun can heat your water. Send $1 for SUN's special DHW issue. SUN, Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517.

MONTANA PUBLISHER NEEDS good quality color transparencies of any National Forest areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. Contact Rick Reese, c/o Montana Magazine, Box 5630, Helena, Montana 59601.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Montana Environmental Information Center
P.O. Box 1184 Helena MT 59624
(406) 443-2520

POSITION:	Lobbyists for 1983 Legislative Session
DATES:	Starts November 1, 1982; terminates April 30, 1983
SALARY:	$1,000/month plus regular MEIC employee benefits; no vacation
JOB DESCRIPTION:	Write legislative proposals; communicate with legislators; help plan and implement lobbying strategies; monitor activites of Montana House and Senate and natural resource-related committees; monitor and testify at hearings; writing and editing; media and publicity work; miscellaneous public speaking.
QUALIFICATIONS:	Knowledge of Montana environmental laws and politics; familiarity with the Montana Environmental Information Center and general conservation perspectives in Montana; strong writing and speaking abilities; ability to communicate with people of diverse viewpoints; ability to work long hours (14-16 hour days are common) in an atmosphere of high stress; dedication to conservation necessary, experience in conservation lobbying preferred.
TO APPLY:	Send resume and description of why you seek this job and of your involvement with and commitment to conservation by October 15, 1982, to:

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTE WATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCAA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (3) INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES, AND (5) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (2) INDUSTRIAL PERMITS, AND (1) MUNICIPAL PERMIT, AND TO RENEW (18) OIL TREATER PERMITS.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: Cone Construction, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1787
Grand Junction, CO 81502
FACILITY LOCATION: Sheridan County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031640

The Cone Construction Company is the contractor for construction of a new sewer line in the City of Sheridan, Wyoming. Groundwater which enters the sewer line trench during construction will be pumped either directly or via storm sewer to Little Goose Creek and Big Goose Creek (Class II Water). The project is expected to last for approximately one year.

The proposed permit requires effluent quality to meet limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "Best Available" treatment for this type of activity. Periodic self monitoring of effluent quality is required with reporting of results quarterly.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: Energy Development Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 600
Hanna, WY 82327
FACILITY LOCATION: Carbon Basin Mine, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031593

Energy Development Company intends to develop an open pit coal mine northeast of Elk Mountain, Wyoming. The only wastewaters associated with the mine will be runoff from disturbed areas and these waters will be held in ponds designed to completely contain the 10 year-24 hr. precipitation event. Therefore no specific discharge points are identified in the permit, but the proposed permit does contain requirements concerning the operation and maintenance of the runoff control ponds. All discharges which do occur will be in the Third Sand Creek (Class IV Water) drainage.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required whenever a discharge occurs with reporting of results within thirty days of the event. The permit is scheduled to expire October 31, 1987.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: Texas Energy Services,Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 1001 Douglas Highway
Gillette, WY 82716
FACILITY LOCATION: Rocky Butte Mine, Campbell County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031585

Texas Energy Services, Inc. intends to construct an open-pit coal mine located South of the City of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming. The mine will be known as the Rocky Butte Mine. "Process water" discharges at the mine consist of six discharge points.

The six discharges flow into Larry, Homestead, Drum, Penny, Alligator, and Tiny Draws (all Class IV Waters).

The above discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level.

Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year-24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire September 30, 1987.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: Amoco Production Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 569
, Powell, WY 82435
FACILITY LOCATION: Little Buffalo Basin - North Waterflood Station, SE¼, Section 1, T47N, R100W, Park County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031658

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Park County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Buffalo Creek (Class IV).

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1986.

(5) APPLICANT NAME: Bellweather Exploration Company
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o Steedley & Associates
P.O. Box 885
Worland, WY 82401
FACILITY LOCATION: #1=14 Federal Oil Well, NW¼, NE¼, Section 14, T50N, R91W, Big Horn County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031666

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Big Horn County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to East Fork McDermott's Gulch (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(6) APPLICANT NAME: Florida Exploration
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 885
Worland, WY 82401
FACILITY LOCATION: Nupec Lamb Federal #1-1, NE¼, SW¼, Section 1, T51N, R93W, Big Horn County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031623

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Big Horn County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Dead Horse Gulch (Class IV).

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(7) APPLICANT NAME: Husky Oil Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 380
Cody, WY 82414
FACILITY LOCATION: Halfmoon Field, Federal Lease, Well #5-22, NE¼, Section 22, T51N, R102W, Park County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031631

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Park County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Sulphur Creek (Class II) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1983.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: Trigg Oil & Mining Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o DM Consulting, Inc.
330 S. Center, Suite 419
Casper, WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: Trigg Gov't Battery, NW¼, SW¼, Section 34, T43N, R94W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031607

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Warm Springs Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(9) APPLICANT NAME: Antelope Coal Company
MAILING ADDRESS: 111 S.W. Columbia, Suite 800
Portland, OR 97201
FACILITY LOCATION: Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030198

The Antelope Coal Company plans to construct an open-pit coal mine in Converse County, Wyoming approximately 45 miles north of the Town of Douglas, Wyoming. A discharge permit for the mine was issued in December of 1981, however, the company has now requested that the permit be modified to allow the discharges from two future sewage treatment plants into settling ponds SPF-1 (discharge point 001) and SPF-2 (discharge point 002). Additionally, discharge point 003 will contain discharge from the temporary sewage treatment facilities. All three discharge points are to School Draw (Class IV). The location discharge point 004 will change but the discharge will still be to Antelope Creek (Class II W.W.).

The proposed permit authorizes the requested discharges but includes effluent limitation and self monitoring modifications to reflect the inclusion of sanitary wastewaters into the ponds. The permit expiration date is being advanced to October 31, 1987.

(10) APPLICANT NAME: Glenrock Coal Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4000
Sheridan, WY 82801
FACILITY LOCATION: Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028525

The Glenrock Coal Company operates an open-pit coal mine located approximately 15 miles north of the Town of Glenrock, Wyoming. It is the desire of the coal company to use Sediment Pond SP-23 for pit water treatment and storage.

An additional discharge point 003, is being added to the permit. It is located in the NE¼, SE¼, Section 15, T36N, R75W, Converse County, Wyoming and discharges to the South Fork (Class IV) of the Dry Fork of the Cheyenne River via an unnamed drainage.

All effluent limitations are based on National "Best Available" Standards and Wyoming's In-Stream Water Quality Standards. Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire October 31, 1987.

(11) APPLICANT NAME: Town of Thayne
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 298
Thayne, WY 83127
FACILITY LOCATION: Lincoln County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025895

The wastewater treatment facility serving the Town of Thayne consists of a 2 cell aerated lagoon followed by a spray field. Due to difficulties encountered by the Town in operating the spray field during the winter, the Town proposes a major modification of its system.

The new system will include a final polishing pond which will discharge to Flat Creek (Class II Water) during the winter. The Spray field will continue to be used during the summer.

The proposed permit authorizes discharges from the following three locations:

1. The southernmost underdrain underlying the wastewater treatment facility.
2. The northernmost underdrain underlying the wastewater treatment facility.
3. The outfall into Flat Creek.

Points 001 and 002 have been found to consist of uncontaminated groundwater and the proposed permit sets no limitations on these discharges, however, the proposed permit does contain language which allows limitations to be established if it is found that these discharges have become contaminated. The effluent limitations for point 003 are based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. These limitations were based on the following:

1. Maximum design discharge - .08 MGD.
2. Q7-10 of Flat Creek - 11 MGD (estimates).
3. In-stream standard for fecal coliform bacteria - 1,000/100 ml (summer only).
4. In-stream standard for total residual chlorine - .002 mg/l.

Due to the very high dilution factor there is no possibility of violation of state standards for unionized ammonia.

The proposed permit requires monitoring of effluent quality and quantity on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit also requires monitoring of two groundwater wells located down gradient of the final pond. The permit is scheduled to expire August 31, 1987.

(12) APPLICANT NAME: Conoco
MAILING ADDRESS: 907 Rancho Road
Casper, WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: Leimser Field Conoco Weymouth 5-1, NE¼, Section 5, T36N, R63N, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031160

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Niobrara County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Leimser Stock Pond (Class IV).

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on this facility except for oil and grease (10 mg/l) and pH (6.5 - 8.5). This is due to the extreme aridness of the area which allows for beneficial use of the water for agricultural purposes. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

(13) APPLICANT NAME: Consolidated Oil and Gas
MAILING ADDRESS: 1860 Lincoln Street
Lincoln Tower Bldg.
Denver, CO 80295
FACILITY LOCATION: Pass Creek Field, Tank Battery #1, SW¼, SE¼, Section 33, T20N, R80W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027782

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Carbon County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Medicine Bow River (Class II) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

(14) APPLICANT NAME: Exeter Exploration Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5928
Denver, CO 80217 T.A.
FACILITY LOCATION: Pubco Federal 4-5, SW¼, SW¼, Section 4, T36N, R81W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027111

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Hemingway Draw (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

(15) APPLICANT NAME: E. Doyle Huckabay, Ltd.
MAILING ADDRESS: 1706 Security Life Bldg.
Denver, CO 80202
FACILITY LOCATION: #1-13 Federal-Krejci, NE¼, SW¼, Section 13, T36N, R64W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028517
FACILITY LOCATION: #1-18 Federal-Krejci, SW¼, SE¼, Section 18, T36N, R63W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028789

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Niobrara County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Crazy Woman Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

(16) APPLICANT NAME: K & W Oil
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o Allen, Bladworth & Crouch
P.O. Box 976
Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: K & W Lease - Section 4, SE¼, Section 4, T29N, R81W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022551

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to South Fork Bear Creek (Class IV).

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

(17) APPLICANT NAME: Marathon Oil
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 120
Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: Diamond Ranch Field, SE¼, SW¼, Section 24, T20N, R78W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000752

(continued on page 14)

BOOKS

Dick Lamm: not angry enough

The Angry West: A Vulnerable Land and Its Future

Richard D. Lamm and Michael McCarthy; Houghton-Mifflin; 1982. 320 pages; $13.95.

Review by Brad Klafehn

The jacket cover is a dramatic photograph of a huge open-pit copper mine. The book's title glares at you in bright red letters: *The Angry West, A Vulnerable Land and its Future.* Inside, the dust cover blurb heightens the sense of impending disaster — "The American West is angry — and more than a little scared. A hurricane of change is striking right now, and every month sees a decade's worth of new developments.... A beautiful, legendary part of the American heritage is on its way to destruction."

It sounds like a book written by a rabid environmentalist bemoaning the industrialization of the West, but in fact its principal author is Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm (D). This has greatly boosted the book's visibility — the governor himself has plugged it on NBC's Today show — and references to it are already cropping up in letters to the editors of rural western newspapers.

The book is destined to figure in the continuing conservation/development debate, and environmentalists will undoubtedly cite it as a sympathetic authority on many issues. *The Angry West* has many virtues, but it is tarnished in places by unclear writing, awful rhetoric, naive statements and the lack of a larger vision of the West's future. Nevertheless, it is a book worth reading and is an interesting indicator of where Colorado politics stand today.

The book discusses many of the current threats to the West's quality of life, from oil shale, coal mining and the MX to the Sunbelt boom and the Sagebrush Rebellion. The volume is at its best on the latter two subjects. The writing is forceful and factual, with little of the handwringing rhetoric and hesitancy to make assertions which characterize parts of the book. Lamm has been an effective opponent of the Sagebrush Rebellion, and his beliefs are clearly reflected here.

Lamm and co-author Michael McCarthy argue strongly that the Sagebrush Rebellion has no legal merit and that, like "every insurgent movement in western history (it is) anchored in self-interest and greed." They accurately state that while the rebellion stems from the legitimate experiences of small public land users, it has been co-opted by the big special interests for their own gain. The authors also provide a useful historical context for the Rebellion, stating, "What Sagebrush Rebels promote as a fresh, dynamic and radical approach to federal 'injustice' is in fact one of the most archaic, threadbare and often rejected ideas in the West's history." They then go on to demonstrate that even if the western states were to get title to federal lands, they would be unable to finance their management — Colorado has 29 people to administer 2.9 million acres of grazing leases, Montana expects three people to oversee five million acres.

Lamm and McCarthy also make some excellent points concerning the Sunbelt/Frostbelt rivalry and the negative effects of energy booms. The authors plead for an end to sectional antagonisms and present good arguments for why the federal government should intervene to stem migration from the Northeast to the Southwest. "It makes little sense for some areas (of the country) to grow so fast that the growth becomes counterproductive, while other areas are drained of their human and economic resources." Public policy, Lamm says, "should discourage migration, not encourage it." The book also notes that when Frostbelt politicians seek aid to alleviate their economic difficulties, they define "economic distress" only as a problem of decline. "In fact, economic distress occurs when rapid economic change sets in — decline or growth....If Cleveland hurts, so does Gillette."

This theme ties in with another thread found throughout the book — that the West's economy has always been based on outside capital, resulting in a series of destructive booms and busts. Lamm says that as long as the West remains dependent on non-local capital, "It is a fact that no amount of economic movement to the West will help it. It will build. It will grow. Perhaps it will prosper. But, as in the days of the Guggenheims and the Rockefellers, it will not belong to itself. It will not control its own destiny."

Lamm and McCarthy also state pointedly, "Wherever energy has moved into Colorado communities, it has monopolized local labor supplies, frequently damaged the local economic base — agriculture, stock raising, tourism — and created dangerous local dependency on energy extraction. It has profited outsiders — laborers, banks, efficient and well-capitalized businesses — at the expense of locals. What the energy companies have created is a 'hollow' economy, healthy on the surface but unhealthy at the core."

These excellent points, however, contrast sharply with the book's glaring weaknesses. The first part of the volume especially is given to sloppy writing and rhetorical excess. For instance, one page contains some dreadful prose: "This is our West. And it is dying....Some of us have made a truce with change. Others have refused. They — we — are the new Indians. And they — we — will not be herded to the new reservations." It is difficult to envision Richard Lamm as a "new Indian." A sense of futility underlies the book and the authors never question the exponential energy growth which is at the root of many of the West's problems. Despite their criticism of the 'hollow' economy generated by energy development, Lamm and McCarthy still conclude that "unbridled growth, even with its problems, is clearly preferable to decline."

It is also startling to read several other naive or uninformed statements from these otherwise enlightened authors. Acid rain, they say, "today presents no threat to the region." The only form of water conservation available to the West is increased physical storage: "In the desert, reduction of use is implausible, even harmful." And the insurgent West is justified, we are told, in its loathing of environmental extremism, although what constitutes extremism is never defined.

Lamm's actions as a politician also contradict some statements made in the book. Lamm, the author, decries the environmental effects of open-pit oil shale mining, but his administration still supports congressional action to give Gulf and Standard more federal land so that they can begin just such an operation. He argues in the book for increased severance taxes, but failed to endorse publicly the recent initiative to raise Colorado's tax. The initiative could have used his support; it failed to get enough signatures to appear on the ballot. And he endorses fighting for the West's water "with all the force (one) can muster," yet his agencies are aggressively opposing Colorado citizens who are trying to do precisely that. Six Paonia irrigators are challenging the state's issuance of a mining permit to ARCO, feeling that their water may be lost to subsidence. The attorney general got their suit thrown out on a technicality, but the legal battle continues on the federal level, where the state still adamantly opposes their claims.

In these cases, Lamm has been reluctant to take stands which live up to his book's rhetoric. Since the book's publication, however, Exxon has pulled out of the Colony Project and many of the *Angry West's* cautions are making more sense to Coloradoans. Lamm, in turn, seems to be reacting to this by becoming more outspoken. Last summer at a campaign stop in Glenwood Springs, Lamm said he had "learned his lesson" with regard to promises made, but not kept, by oil shale companies. State government, he said, would hold them to their promises in the future. He also pledged that the "price of admission" would go up for those companies who want to come back into the state and develop shale.

Perhaps it is too much to expect a book by any politician to forge ahead of popular sentiment. *The Angry West* does make strong statements in many cases. If it lacks a clear, positive vision of the future for the West, that is probably because even the "progressive" elements have failed to articulate one. One of the underlying themes of the book is that Westerners do not control their destiny and never have. Once this becomes clear to county commissioners, town council members and third-generation settlers, we may start to reverse the trend. Lamm and McCarthy's book will certainly help bring this point home. Maybe by the time they write their next book, they will be able to cite real grassroots examples of people taking charge, rather than merely lamenting our colonial status. A governor can do a lot to facilitate this process. *The Angry West* is a start.

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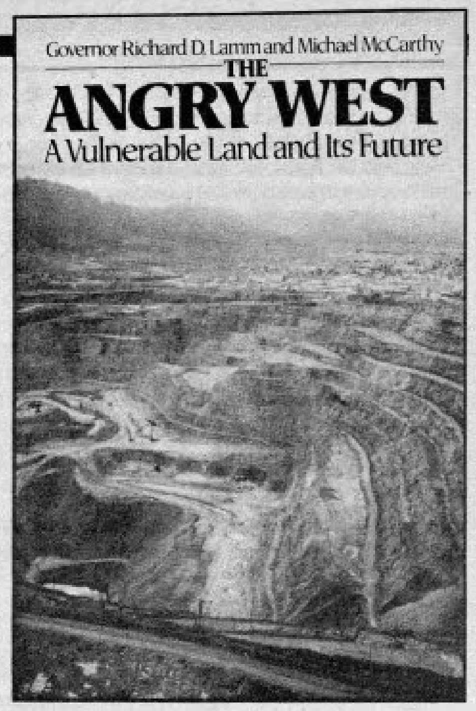
Brad Klafehn is a freelance writer in Crawford, Colorado, and an executive committee member of the Western Colorado Congress.



(continued from page 13)

FACILITY LOCATION:	Kyle Field, SW¼, NW¼, Section 25, T21N, R79W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0000787
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lance Creek Field, Schurich Battery, NW¼, SE¼, Section 6, T35N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0001856
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lance Creek Field, O'Rhoff Battery, NW¼, SW¼, Section 32, T36N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0001864
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lance Creek Field, Converse Sheep Battery, NW¼, SE¼, Section 32, T36N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0001872
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lance Creek Field, C. Putnam Battery, SE¼, NE¼, Section 32, T36N, R65W, Niobara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-001881
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lightning Creek Field, Battery #1, NW¼, Section 31, T35N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0023221
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lance Creek Field, Elliott Battery, NE¼, NW¼, Section 5, T35N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0026395

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Carbon and Niobrara Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Rock Creek (Class II) via an unnamed tributary, Medicine Bow River (Class II) via an unnamed draw and Little Lightning Creek (Class IV).

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

(18)	APPLICANT NAME:	The Marathon Oil Company
	MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 120 Casper, WY 82602
	FACILITY LOCATION:	Carbon County, Wyoming
	PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0001929

Marathon Oil Company's Consolidated Tank Battery is located in the Rock River Field, Section 34, T20N, R78W, Carbon County, Wyoming. The facility is used to inject water into oil bearing formations to enhance recovery. Under normal circumstances there is no discharge surface waters, however, if a discharge did occur it would flow to Watkins Creek (Class II Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires no discharge from this facility except under emergency conditions. If an emergency occurs the effluent can not have oil and grease concentration in excess of 10 mg/l and the permittee must immediately contact the Department. A written description of the discharge including proposed actions to prevent future discharges must be sent to the Department within five days of any discharge. The permit is scheduled to expire December 31, 1987.

(19)	APPLICANT NAME:	The Marathon Oil Company
	MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 120 Casper, WY 82602
	FACILITY LOCATION:	Carbon County, Wyoming

OPINION

A bias toward the public land

by John Soisson

GUEST EDITORIAL

When it comes to the public lands, I have to admit right off to some bias.

I grew up in the soft coal region of southwestern Pennsylvania. The subject of public lands was never an issue there because there weren't any. The grey company towns, the gouged hillsides and the denuded hilltops were all on private property. They were — and are — monuments to rogue self-interest.

After I moved to the Rockies a decade ago, I found a lot of the same sort of thing — clear-cut hillsides, gaping strip mines, lonely communities. But there were also public lands in the West. And something else: an attitude I couldn't define.

So it was with some anticipation that I attended a recent two-day conference on the disposition of more than 300 million acres of public lands in the United States. The conference, I hoped, would help me better understand what that difference in attitude was.

The symposium was sponsored by Resources for the Future, a 30-year-old, independent organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The idea was to encourage dispassionate study of the issues surrounding the Ronald Reagan-James Watt proposals to sell some of the public lands into private ownership.

The focus of the symposium — as of the current national debate — was supposed to be the question of ownership. That's no small question. About 86 percent of Nevada, 81 percent of Alaska, 64 percent of Utah and Idaho, and more than 40 percent of Arizona, California, Oregon and Wyoming, are federally owned. But concerns over management of the lands — by public and private managers — were at the heart of the statistics that were trooped forward during the meeting.

The session was scholarly. For the most part, speakers were foresters, economists and scientists who have devoted their lives to such things as asset management and ownership.

As a result, one speaker could say with some authority that 21 percent of federal range land is in good condition while only 11 percent of private range land can be rated that high. And the next speaker could argue, with equal conviction, that federal ownership and uncertain lease policies have encouraged overgrazing and mismanagement.

Another speaker could show that there is no empirical evidence that privately held lands have been managed more poorly than federal lands. Yet another could assert that the only major stands of old growth timber left in the lower 48 states are found on public lands that were never privately owned.

Another could argue that maximum productivity, full utilization and profitability, as dictated by the "marketplace," should be the sole guide for the use of resources; while still another could contend that private owners don't have the same mandate to protect non-economic values of the land as do public managers.

The public lands were talked about in quantifiable terms: board-feet, gross tonnage, biomass, market value. The participants argued over who would manage those measureable assets most efficiently. If they could prove the most efficient manager, the winner could be awarded the spoils.

If the symposium accomplished anything, it demonstrated that in an age when science serves as religion, we believe that facts and figures can be the basis for all our decisions. Compile enough data, and you can untie any Gordian Knot. And, as in most debates in which scientific evidence is the proof, there was no consensus reached.

What was clear, however, was that the real issue of the public lands transcends empirical data. The real concern is one of values. The people at the conference who attempted to make that point were Gaylord Nelson of the Wilderness Society and Joseph Sax, professor of law at the University of Michigan.

"There is a growing divergence among public and private values," Sax said. "The tradition in America is that development means progress and that private ownership is consistent with public values. Those values are diverging and so there is skepticism among the public."

In other words, it may have been possible at one time to say that what was "good for General Motors was good for the U.S.A.," but people don't readily accept that these days.

Nelson, for his part, pointed out that "the literature of privatization is strangely devoid of any serious discussion of or concern for that enormous heritage of non-market cultural, social and resource values on the public lands."

The way in which we use our land is one of the great issues of society. The debate over the sale of public lands is, after all, a debate over land use and national values.

Such sessions as the Resources for the Future symposium are useful more for the opportunity they allow us to examine our values than in the hard data they assemble. Such sessions bring together people of differing values, give them a mechanism to join in discussion and buy-time for them to sift through conflicting material.

But in spite of what some scholars would say, we aren't wholly controlled by economic and scientific laws. There are spiritual values that people have and share and that they sometimes act to preserve.

F.L.C. Reed, assistant deputy minister of the Canadian Forestry Service, told the symposium that a land use ethic can be formed by coming to terms with nature, by allowing ourselves to be more influenced by natural cycles, by rekindling a land-based economy and by renewing our spiritual acquaintance with nature.

Short of that, we'll probably have to settle for what most people at the symposium thought we'd get: some increase in private ownership of public lands and closer comparison of the results of private and public ownership of similar parcels of land. We'll improve our management techniques but we won't come any closer to the formation of a land ethic.

All in all, the participants in the symposium could have learned a lot from a middle-aged woman in Sheridan, Wyoming, who talked to me after my first trip into the Big Horn National Forest, close by Sheridan.

"Well," she asked me with pride and satisfaction, "how do you like our mountains?"

Our mountains, she said.

Years ago, when we packed into the slashed and scarred hills and ridges of my southwestern Pennsylvania home, we spoke of "the" mountains.

One word can make all the difference.

‡‡‡

John Soisson, formerly of Sheridan, Wyoming, is now a freelance writer in Portland, Oregon and a frequent contributor to *High Country News*.

LETTERS

BOMBS IN THE BACKYARD

Dear *HCN*,

Railing against *High Country News* because it doesn't cover the threat of nuclear war only shows that the transcontinental walker, Seeb Hall, does not understand why many people don't grasp the reality of nuclear annihilation. For his sake, I hope that the next 2,000 miles offer the insight he lacked while in Wyoming (*HCN* Letters, 9/17/82).

Often, people do not acknowledge that they sit under a nuclear bomb until our government proposes planting a MX missile or two in a local rancher's winter sheep range. They don't rally against the threat until they understand that the plutonium for nuclear bomb triggers is polluting the land and water outside of Denver.

HCN has covered the bombs that are in the West's backyard. There is no doubt that the paper will follow the same tack in the future. Many other newspapers, magazines and books address the potential for a nuclear holocaust — one of the finest is *The Bulletin for Atomic Scientists*. I suggest that readers subscribe to it for all the numbers, theories, strategies, etc. on nuclear warfare.

However, if you want to know about black-footed ferrets, wilderness, the proposed nuclear waste repository in Utah's Gibson Dome, western water development, boom towns, and the revised MX missile plan for the West then stay tuned to *High Country News*.

Debbie East
Lander, Wyoming

WATT'S BLACK HAT

Dear *HCN*,

Blackshear, Georgia, is a heck of a long way from Washington, D.C., and still farther from the mountains and plains west of the midcontinent flats, but the fear of Jim Watt extends down here as much as it does in any other part of the country.

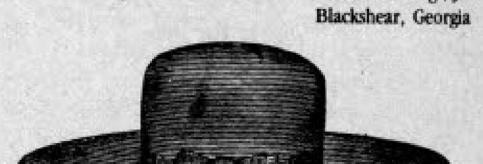
The problem with Watt is that he talks as good a conservation attitude as any of us in the old line organizations or in the more narrowly focused newer environmental groups. And then come his actions! And the whole kit and caboodle of good stuff is long gone. Or, if not the whole, a substantial part.

It was very noticeable that Whipple and Watt (*HCN*, 10/1/82) didn't touch the one subject that has blown hot and cold since before Watt went to Washington this time: The Sagebrush Rebellion (which I prefer to label the "Sagebrush Rascality") — or else it was talked about but didn't make the story. Could be that Whipple was leaning very far backward to be sure nothing in the story could be construed as crucifixion by the interviewer.

The O'Gara piece on the coroner-guide, Larry Lee, and Watt was much more in line with the historic Watt and the tactics employed.

It would have been interesting to see how the clever lawyer, Watt, squirmed his way into a snow white suit of clothes in answer to a pointed question or two about the doings of Bob Burford and his people in the Bureau of Land Management. To change the comparatives a wee bit, I'd have liked to see how he managed to change the colors of some very, very black hats to white, with respect to the continuing, if not accelerating desertification of our beloved West, thanks to the present administration.

William Voigt, Jr.
Blackshear, Georgia



PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031186

Marathon Oil Company's Harrison and Cooper Section 2-3-35 Battery and Cretaceous Sand Injection Plant is located in the NE¼, Section 3, T18N, R78W, Carbon County, Wyoming. The facility is used to inject water into bearing formations to enhance recovery. Under normal circumstances there is no discharge surface waters, however, if a discharge did occur it would flow to Dixon Creek (Class IV Water).

The proposed permit requires no discharge from this facility except under emergency conditions. If an emergency occurs the effluent can not have oil and grease concentration in excess of 10 mg/l and the permittee must immediately contact the Department. A written description of the discharge including proposed actions to prevent future discharges must be sent to the Department within five days of any discharge. The permit is scheduled to expire December 31, 1987.

(20) APPLICANT NAME: Southland Royalty Company
MAILING ADDRESS: 300 Country Club Rd., Suite 300, Casper WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: Okie Draw Federal #1-14, SW¼, SE¼, Section 14, T37N, R85W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027367

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Okie Draw (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

(21) APPLICANT NAME: E. C. Yegen
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1774, Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: North Casper Creek Field, Gowin #1 Battery, SE¼, Section 36, T37N, R82W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026859

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to North Fork Casper Creek (Class III) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

STATE/EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCAA will be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

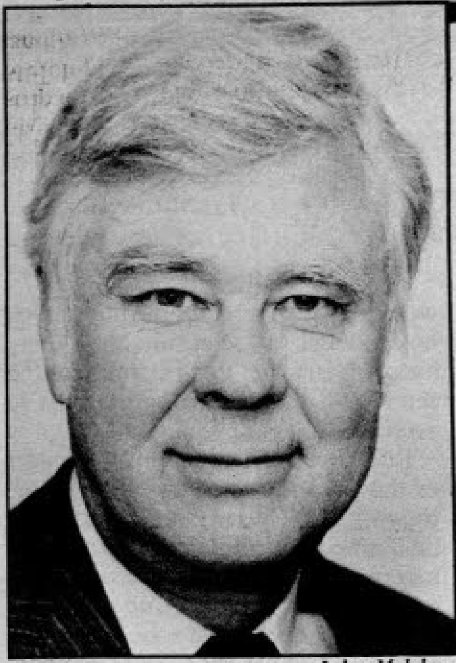
Public comments are invited any time prior to November 16, 1982. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to November 16, 1982, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

The complete applications, draft permits and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned addresses.

Public Notice No: Wy-82-010


John Melcher

Williams vs. Melcher

Conservative coalition challenges environmental "schizophrenic"

by Don Snow


Larry Williams

Where U.S. senators are concerned, you might say Montana votes Democratic. The state has elected one Republican senator in its history, and it must have been a colorful race — Zales Ecton defeating Leif Erickson. Mike Mansfield knocked off Ecton after one term and it's been Demos ever since.

Today, thirty years later, Montana's Democratic dynasty is threatened by an odd combination of new-wave politics — the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), and an est-trained Republican investments counselor from Kalispell. Together they may be on the verge of toppling Montana's senior Senator, John Melcher.

Melcher is a veteran politician with a long, erratic career in Congress. Elected to the House in a 1969 special election, he served three and a half terms as Montana's eastern district representative. He won his races by astonishing margins, sometimes garnering over 70 percent of the vote.

A veterinarian by training, Melcher won the hearts of his constituents in the agricultural half of the state, and he has maintained an unsullied image as an ally of the Montana farmer.

But while his agricultural constituency was cheering him on, Montana conservationists were beginning to grumble about some of his stands. By 1982, the grumbling had grown into a roar.

In the House, Melcher was a primary sponsor of the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline bill. In the Senate, Melcher was and is Montana's most outspoken political proponent of the Northern Tier Pipeline, a 42-inch underground line intended to carry Alaskan crude from Port Angeles, Washington, to Clearbrook, Minnesota. The Washington State Environmental Siting Council has nixed the line on the grounds that it threatens the coastline environment with irreparable damage (*HCN*, 4/16/82).

Melcher has introduced legislation to open RARE II lands for multiple use and has consistently stepped on toes in Montana's wilderness movement.

Recently, both the Montana Wilderness Association and the Wilderness Society have charged that Melcher is dragging his feet on passage of the proposed 202,000-acre Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area in the Madison and Gallatin Ranges.

But in other conservation issues, Melcher's record is impeccable. Margie McDonald of the Northern Plains Resource Council pointed out that Melcher was a leader in reforming the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act which governs federal coal and petroleum leasing.

According to MacDonald, "John Melcher has been a very diligent advocate of strong strip mining reclamation laws and a consistent advocate of a balanced coal leasing policy." She also pointed to Melcher's criticism of the Bonneville Power Administration's plans for transmission lines from Colstrip to the Pacific Northwest as a sign of Melcher's sensitivity to Montana landowners.

In 1981, the League of Conservation Voters said that Melcher voted pro-environment on 52 percent of key conservation issues. One eastern Montana conservationist said, "If you've got tunnel vision for some environmental issues in eastern Montana, he's been real good. Otherwise, he's environmentally schizophrenic."

But Melcher apparently does not need to worry about his erratic conservation voting record. Recent public opinion polls show that his public image in Montana is strongest in three areas — his efforts to stay in touch with constituents, his work on behalf of farmers and ranchers, and his role in protecting Montana's environment.

Say that to any well-informed environmentalist in Montana and you're likely to get a long-jawed stare of disbelief. The fact is, however, John Melcher is a superb politician.

But so is his opponent.

Larry Williams, author of the best-selling *How to Prosper in the Coming Good Years*, showed up in Montana politics in 1978 when he ran against Rep. Max Baucus for the U.S. Senate. Williams came out of political nowhere, ran an aggressive high-profile campaign, and captured 45 percent of the vote against a man whom many considered to be Montana's golden boy in the House.

Williams is confident that in 1982 he will beat John Melcher. "I'm more of a known commodity now," Williams said. "When we started our race against Max, I had zero name recognition. Nobody had ever heard of Larry Williams. I got 45 percent of the vote. I don't consider that I lost that race.

Against Baucus, Williams showed the kind of aggressiveness that seems to be killing political giants these days. His campaign, run by consultant Herb Williams, who managed Rep. Ron Marlenee's first successful drive, was a frontal attack both on Baucus and on Democratic policies which Williams charged had dampened Montana's economy.

Slipping badly in late October, the Democrats pulled out a nasty weapon that many feel was the deciding blow against the Republican newcomer — an old picture of Larry Williams in longish hair and love beads. The photo raced across state wires.

Now Herb Williams is gone, and with him a legacy of scorched-earth Republican campaigns. The candidate's current manager is a nice woman named Kim Phillips who does not come across like a midnight salesman of encyclopedias. And Larry himself is running soft, emphasizing his roots as a third generation Montana family man, and his vision for Montana's economy based on Reaganomics.

"When I ran against Baucus, people thought I was from California or someplace. I didn't get the right message across," said Williams, whose real estate investments in California actually did help enrich him.

Williams spent $500,000 against Baucus, dipping far into his own pockets and eventually selling his house to help pay off campaign debts.

Now he's emphasizing his expertise in finance and economics, highlighted by his recent best-selling book that predicts a return to national prosperity. The news is all good, the love beads a distant memory.

But Evan Barrett claimed that Williams is in league with NCPAC in a planned strategy that both are using expertly.

Williams can afford to run soft against Melcher because of a third party in the race — the National Conservative Political Action Committee.

When NCPAC came to Montana a year and a half ago it was carrying the bloody fleece of Frank Church, George McGovern and other liberal senators the organization had helped defeat. Using brassy campaigns based largely on character assassination, NCPAC had moved like the grim reaper across entrenched libera' turf, targeting vulnerable candidates and burning up campaign funds faster than jet fuel. NCPAC did not work for conservatives but against liberals, allowing favorite Republican challengers to run positive campaigns. The pattern is now recurring in Montana.

According to Melcher's campaign manager Evan Barrett, Melcher is number three on the 1982 NCPAC hit-list. It isn't that Melcher is especially vulnerable, said Barrett, but that NCPAC can get "more bang for its buck" in a small state like Montana.

"John is number three on their list, but per capita, NCPAC is spending more in Montana than anywhere else," said Barrett.

NCPAC's $200,000 anti-Melcher campaign started more than a year ago with television ads depicting John Melcher as a big spender and an enemy of a generic character whom NCPAC has labelled "the traditional Montana conservative."

Larry Williams has disavowed all affiliation with NCPAC and in fact claimed that the committee is actually helping Melcher with its heavy-handed tactics and out-of-state image.

"I think they should have registered as the Friends of John Melcher campaign," said Williams.

"In June a year ago NCPAC came to Billings and did a poll in which we were able to read the design of an attack on John Melcher," Barrett said. "Larry Williams met with them and they persuaded him to become the candidate. There is no way that NCPAC is going to help John Melcher, and in fact they've already hurt," Barrett added.

William's campaign literature pledges that he will accept no out-of-state money, except for the regulated amount offered by the National Republican Party. Lately, he has charged that Melcher received funds from large corporations and out of state special interests who receive favorable votes from the senior Senator.

Melcher's troops are sensitive about the issue of campaign finances, but are quick to point out that with NCPAC also running against Melcher, the Democrats are bound to spend more than the Republicans.

"Williams' claim that he is taking no out-of-state money is bullshit, and you can quote me," said Joe Lamson, Executive Secretary of the Montana Democratic Party. "That's what a con-artist would like you to believe." Lamson pointed to the $80,000 available to Williams from the Republican Party as a "healthy chunk of out of state bucks."

"The Republicans are getting their money from the same big bad corporations they accuse Melcher of supporting," Lamson said. "If you add together the $400,000 Williams says he'll raise in-state, plus his $80,000 from the Republicans, plus $200,000 of NCPAC money, you'll see that he and John have nearly equal budgets."

It's a sign of the times that issues have hardly surfaced so far in this race. Larry Williams' ads say that he is "good for people, good for Montana," but they don't say how. He claims that he is the first man in decades to bring a President to Montana — and he did. Ronald Reagan rode a horse in Billings and talked about jackasses on the Potomac. At a Republican fundraiser the two sat side by side in front of an American flag that seemed larger than a gridiron.

In one of John Melcher's ads the Senator is whittling down a wooden bureaucrat with a pocket knife, and that is an indication of cutting back on government. Or maybe just nervousness.

The only Senatorial candidate who has dirtied himself much with issues is Larry Dodge, a post card producer from Helmville, who is running — or rather rowing — as a Libertarian. This summer, Dodge canoed his way on rivers to some 60 Montana towns with an articulate appeal for less government, no Northern Tier, and wilderness areas managed by environmental groups.

Who will win?

Williams' recent poll says that he's "seven points behind and closing."

Melcher's recent poll says 54 percent to 27 percent in favor of Melcher.

Larry Dodge says he was up to seven percent in June, "but after all those rivers I'm sure I'm higher now."

‡‡‡

Don Snow is a freelance writer in Stevensville, Montana, and a contributing editor to *High Country News*. This article was paid for by the *HCN* Research Fund.