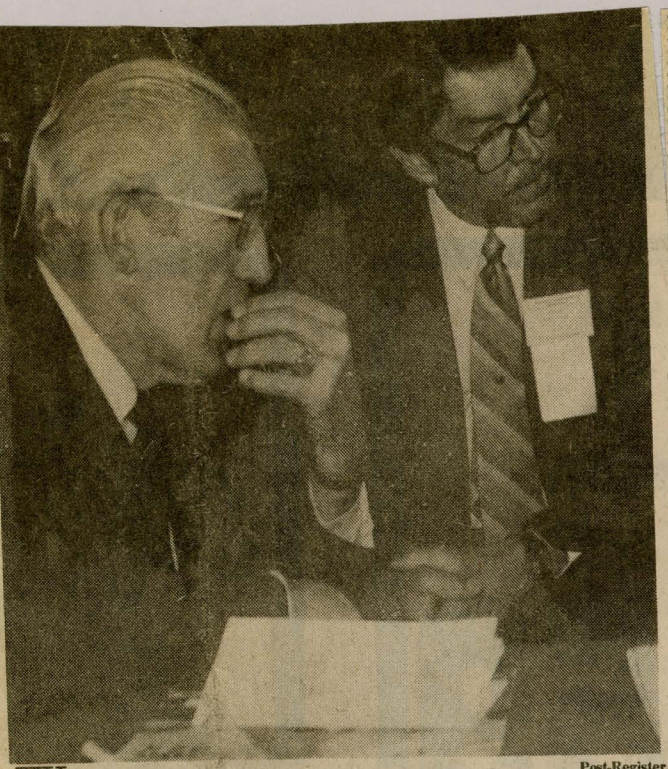

Post-Register

Western governors

GOVS. ED HERSCHLER of Wyoming, right, and John V. Evans of Idaho, left, are expected to play key roles in the Western Governors Conference, which opened in Teton Village near Jackson Wednesday afternoon and will continue until Saturday noon. The pair are shown in a photo from last year's governors conference.

West governors to argue issues

Sept 9, 1981

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

JACKSON, WYO. — How far to go on natural resources development as compared with environmental safeguards shape up as the key issue in the Western Governors Conference here Wednesday evening, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The controversies will be heightened by the appearances of Secretary of Interior James Watt, one of most battled public figure on the American political scene because of what critics charge are his strong anti-environmental polices.

Watt will speak Friday at about 9 a.m. at the plenary session on land, water and energy-related issues.

Idaho Gov. John V. Evans and some of his office staff, including Frank Lindberg, assistant; and Dan Myers, press secretary, arrived on the scene Tuesday to prepare for the conference. Evans is brushing up on a talk he will give Thursday morning.

Most governors are expected to arrive at the conference site at Teton Village, a dozen miles west of Jackson, by Wednesday afternoon to attend the registration, a staff advisory committee meeting in the afternoon and barbecue and dancing in the evening.

Another attraction is California Gov. Jerry Brown, touted as a U.S. senatorial candidate in 1982, who will attend the conference for the first time except for the one last year held near his state at Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Only ones who expects to be absent are Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, and two terrirtorial goverors, Carlos Camcho, of northern Mariannas and Paul Calvo, of Guam.

Thursday's program calls for the governors' breakfast at 8 a.m., and plenary session on "Stresses on State Prison-Correction system at 10 a.m.The afternoon program includes discussions on rangeland policy and coastal and marine management. A special governors social is slated for the evening.

The agenda for Friday besides the Watts talk and the water, land and energy discussions includes governors' nomination, resolutions and committee breakfasts.

The afternoon is open but the evening is devoted for a reception and state dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Saturday forenoon session is devoted to rules revisions, election of officers, adoption of policy positions and work plans, followed by the concluding session on Western state finances, including the severance tax.

Nevada Gov. Robert F. List is the conference chairman while Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler is the host governor.

More than 300 are expected, including members of the governors' parties, observers, lobbyists, new media and guests.