

# West governors await Jackson conference

*Sun Sept 6, 1981*

By BEN J. PLASTINO

**Post-Register political editor**  
JACKSON, Wyo. — Fiery Secretary of Interior James Watt and all western governors except Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt are expected in Teton Village under the shadows of the lowering Tetons for their annual conference Wednesday through Saturday.

Even California Gov. Jerry Brown, who has missed every conference except the one last year held on the border of his state at Lake Tahoe, has sent word he will attend, said Olga Byrd, San Francisco, executive assistant for the sponsoring Western Council of State Government.

Watt, a frequent target of environmentalists but the champion of conservatives and developers, is scheduled to talk Friday morning on "Land, Water and Energy-Related Issues."

In past years, western governors have loudly expressed resentment at Brown's failure to attend, but in 1982, they said, he apparently wants all the help he can get in his reported venture to seek the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Sen. Sam Hayakaya.

The three plenary sessions will concentrate on prison corrections, land, water and energy issues, and western state finances, said Ms. Byrd. The main sessions will be held in the music hall of Teton Village, six miles northwest of Jackson.

Host for the conference is Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler, while Nevada Gov. Robert F. List is the conference chairman.

Preliminary activities open Wednesday with registration, a staff advisory committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. and a barbecue and dancing in the evening.

Thursday's program calls for a breakfast for governors only at 8 a.m., opening of the conference proper at 10 a.m., and plenary session on "Stresses on State Prison-Corrections System."

Following a noon break comes a 2 p.m. session on "Concurrent Symposia on Rangeland Policy for the '80s and Coastal and Marine Management." Brown, Oregon Gov. Victor Atiyeh and Washington Gov. John Spellman, representing the western coastal states, will participate in this, said Ms. Byrd.

A special governors family evening is scheduled at 6:30.

The agenda for Friday includes governors' nomination and resolutions and committee breakfasts at 7:30 a.m. and a plenary session at 9 a.m. on land, water and energy-related issues following Watts' major address.

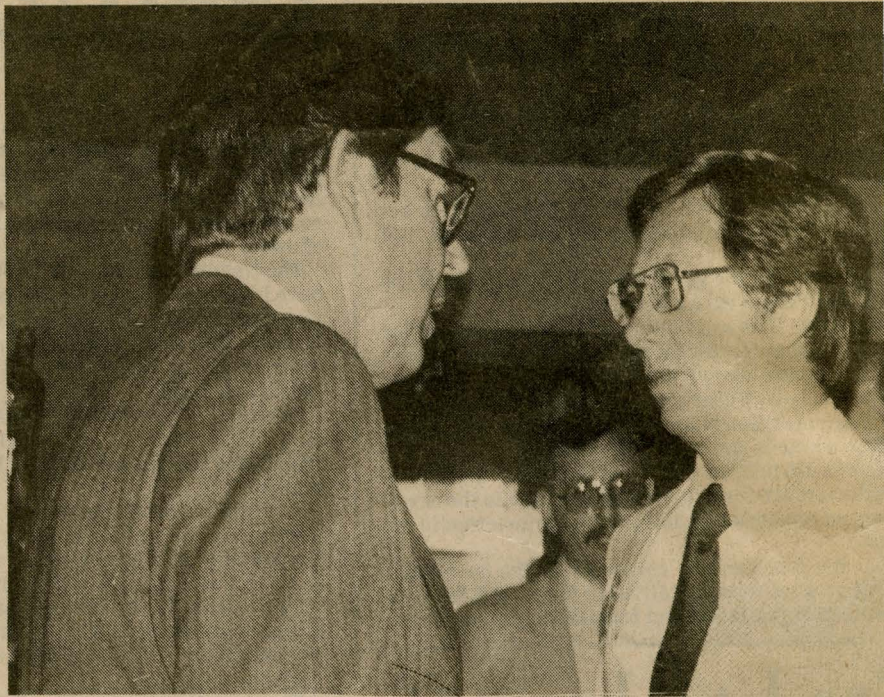
Friday afternoon is open, while the evening activity calls for reception and state dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The final session Saturday forenoon will be a business meeting at 9 a.m. consisting of rules revisions, election of officers, adoption of policy positions and work plan, followed by the concluding session at 10:30 a.m. on "Western States Finances," with discussions to center on the severance taxes, pension fund investments and block grants.

Also sending word they would not attend were territorial governors Carlos Camacho of the northern Marianas and Paul Calvo of Guam.

More than 300 are expected to attend, including the governors' parties, lobbyists, observers, news media, guests and others, said Ms. Byrd.

Teton Village hosted the conference in 1976 when Secretary of Interior Thomas Kleppe was the top speaker. At that meeting Idaho Gov. Cecil D. Andrus, who was to follow Kleppe as interior secretary, was the chairman of the National Governors' Association.



## Western governors

GOVS. JOHN V. EVANS of Idaho, left, and Robert F. List of Nevada, chat while attending the Western Governors Conference at Sun Valley in 1979. They will be among those

attending the conference this week at Teton Village near Jackson. List is the conference chairman.