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## Coloradan's Yearly Seminar puts People Close to Politics and letter from Hugh Hatcher

Hugh Hatcher

New York Times

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Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

1600 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80202

April 27, 1981

Mr. Duane D. Pearsall  
24758 Foothills Drive North  
Golden, Colorado 80401

Dear Duane:

Enclosed is a page from Sunday's New York Times which has an article re the Wirth Seminar where you are extensively quoted. I thought you would like to see this. Tell Marge hello for me.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh S. Hatcher

HSH/kdm

# Coloradan's Yearly Seminar Puts People Close to Politics

*New York Times*

By **MARJORIE HUNTER**

Special to The New York Times

*Sunday  
Apr. 26, 1981*

WASHINGTON, April 25 — After 46 years of teaching, 81-year-old A. G. Waldrop became a student, one of about 250 people attending what has become an annual event in the nation's capital, the Wirth Washington Seminar.

The three-day cram course in government and politics was begun seven years ago by Representative Timothy E. Wirth, a Colorado Democrat who was swept into office in the aftermath of the Watergate scandals.

From that modest beginning, with just 35 Colorado constituents in attendance, the seminar has become so popular that several hundred applicants had to be turned away this year.

Like most of those taking part, Mr. Waldrop and his wife, Frances, paid their own travel and living expenses. He is a retired professor of journalism at the University of Colorado.

## Assistance on Expenses

For the few who were unable to afford the long trip, expenses were paid by a private nonprofit educational foundation.

By attracting both Republicans and Democrats, Mr. Wirth's seminar has become an effective campaign tool, one of the factors that has contributed to his election in what is ordinarily a Republican district. Attendance is not limited to Coloradans, but most people at the seminar are Mr. Wirth's constituents.

Duane Pearsall and his wife, Marge, of Golden, Colo., are Republicans. Yet they voted for Mr. Wirth and have attended six of the seven seminars.

"This kind of thing makes me feel closer to government," Mrs. Pearsall said. "It proves that people do listen to us."

"It's an educational update," said Mr. Pearsall. "Every year is different. One year we learn about energy. One year we hear about the B-1 bomber. This year, it's the budget."

## Opposes Administration Cuts

Mr. Wirth, who calls himself a fiscal moderate, is a member of the House Budget Committee and a supporter of the more generous Democratic alternative to the Reagan Administration's proposed budget reductions.

But Mr. Wirth did not limit the speakers at the seminar to those who agreed with him on the budget. Among the speakers were Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, and Representative Richard Chaney of Wyoming, chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee.

Other speakers included Stuart E. Eizenstat, who was chief domestic policy adviser to President Carter, and Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, which is vigorously opposed to the Administration's proposed reductions in social programs.

The seminar, which ended today, also included a visit with Associate Justice Byron R. White of the Supreme Court, discussions on foreign policy by L. Bruce Laingen, one of the former hostages in Iran, and Peter Jay, former British Ambassador, and other speeches on energy and land management.

*D.P. appeared on McNeil/Lehrer Report. Ngt/70  
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