

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

Suite 155 • 400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Release: August 28, 1986

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- C-SPAN's interview with Gov. Richard Lamm (D) airs Monday, September 4 at 7:30 AM, 4:00 PM, 8:30 PM, and midnight Mountain Time. The hour-long interview, part of C-SPAN's Labor Day programming, was recorded on August 23 in Hilton Head, South Carolina while Gov. Lamm attended the National Governors' Association Summer Meeting there.

Enclosed are some quotes from the interview. Please contact Susan Swain at (202) 737-3220 if you need more information.

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Enclosed are some quotes from the interview. Please contact Susan Swain at (202) 737-3220 if you need more information.

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CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK



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202/737-3220

SELECTED QUOTES FROM A C-SPAN INTERVIEW WITH RETIRING COLORADO GOVERNOR, RICHARD LAMM (D)

On his greatest accomplishment as Governor of Colorado:

"We ran the state honestly and well for twelve years. I think that's the yardstick that I would prefer to look at - I think administering the state efficiently and effectively....There were a lot of things - we dramatically reduced the welfare roll, rebuilt the prison system. But I think the ultimate yardstick is, in my mind anyway, it's an administrative office - I've been asked to run a \$4 billion dollar a year business - and I think we ran it efficiently and effectively."

On being a Governor:

"I think a governor's job is three jobs in one actually. I do feel mostly a Chief Executive Officer - you're asked to run a 4 billion dollar a year corporation. Second of all, however, you just can't, [you're] inextricably intertwined with the politics of it, so second of all you're a political leader. Thirdly then, you're also a ceremonial head of the state. If I never cut another ribbon it will be too soon."

On his biggest mistake as Governor of Colorado:

"There were a lot of mistakes, but you know, everybody would sort of like to live their life over again. I guess my biggest mistake was getting off in a very controversial way with our legislature. I had a Republican legislature. I am a Democrat. I think that twelve years ago we were both confrontational and I think I am still paying for that..."

"I was trained as an adversary, trained as an advocate. [When] I got in the legislature I made my name for fighting for what I believed in. I still fight for what I beleive in. But when it comes to working with the legislature from the governor's position, essentially, you've got 100 men and women. In that every one of them wants your job - every one of them says I could do that job better than the Governor. Every one of them is a little bit envious, a little bit jealous. I think when you add that all up, that there is a range of skills for dealing with the legislature that I didn't - even though I was in the legislature - that I didn't pay enough attention to at first..."

"I think that after the first year I really recognized that confrontational politics

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was hurting the state, not helping me and hurting my administration. But, by the way, I think there are still people in the legislature that have antagonisms that date from that day. In a way you have to live with your sins. Politics is a very continuing business and, oh boy, there are politicians everywhere with long memories....Certainly after the first year in office, I dramatically changed my style of dealing with the legislature. But the affect of it [the first year] continued on."

On the 1986 General Elections:

"It's a very hard year to read. It's a very hard year to read. As you know, this is a year where, generally, there is a lurch toward the party that is not in power. I think that history tells you that it ought to be a generally Democratic year. But I don't know. I don't feel it out there. This election year has yet to gel."

On his political future:

"Politics is an addiction. It really is for a lot of people and I think that it is for me too, to some degree. I'm a public policy junkie. I do think that it's not the money in life, it's the fun of administering something. My real problem is that after being Governor of Colorado, there's nothing as near as exciting as being that. I just don't want to live in Washington, D.C....

"I don't know what I'm going to do in 1990. I truly don't know what I'm going to do. I don't know how much I'm going to miss this job. I don't know how much I'm going to be dying to get back in [to politics]. Right now, one of the things I want to do is go away and think about this. But I don't want to go out and make a lot of money. I'm going to go teach at Dartmouth for six months. I won't make a lot of money doing that. I really just want to think through what my next steps may be, then I'll decide."

On the books he has written:

"I do like to write. I like to write op-ed pieces. I think maybe I'd like to do a syndicated column. I've had some offers to do a syndicated column. I'm not much of a fiction writer, but I do like to write non-fiction. I'm working, actually, I have published one fiction book and I have published five non-fiction. I do plan to do another non-fiction book called The Uncompetitive Society where I'm going to make the case that the United States is rapidly becoming an uncompetitive society."

On working for one of his close friends, Govs. Babbitt, Cuomo or Sen. Gary Hart's bid for the Democratic nomination for President in 1988:

"I want to go out and offend people. I want to go out and kick sacred cows. I want go out and talk about [how there are] too many lawyers in the United States. I think that nobody wants to have somebody like that close in to their political system. But I think America needs that. This is what I want to do. Running for President is not what America needs. [America does not need] another politician running for President. What America needs is somebody, I think like me, that comes around and says - does it make any sense that the United States has two-thirds of all the lawyers in the world? Those are the kind of issues I want to raise and that makes me controversial. It does not make me somebody you want out making speeches for you for President...

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