

Small Businessman of '75 Scathes 'Misguided' Laws

Dead Boss 10/16/76

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Sharp criticism of "misguided legislation that is killing small business" was leveled Tuesday at a Denver Chamber of Commerce meeting by Duane Pearsall, Denver-area manufacturer who has been named national "Small Businessman of the Year" for 1975.

Pearsall is president and founder of Statitrol Corp., Lakewood, which manufactures smoke-detection devices. He spoke to the Chamber's small business council on "Small Business—A Sleeping Political Giant."

DECLARING, "OUR government is destroying the creative strength of America through misguided legislation," Pearsall denounced such measures as the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Act and the Warranty and Pension Reform Acts for creating "a back-breaking burden of regulations and government paperwork."

He termed OSHA tactics "not unlike those of a police state."

Pearsall noted that the legislation was designed to protect employes and consumers and to regulate big business, but he said its fullest impact is being felt by small business.

Pearsall said small business must make

its voice heard "to improve the economic well-being of America," and he called on small business to commit ½ of 1 per cent of its pretax profit and 2 per cent of its time to such a political effort.

THIS COMMITMENT, he said, would result in a budget of more than \$1 billion per year to support state legislative efforts to groups like the Denver Chamber, the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry and similar national organizations, to give the small-business sector political impact "which would overshadow any other organized group visible on the Washington scene today."

Pearsall outlined specific legislative programs to benefit small business, including employe tax credits, write-offs and loan capability.

Business