

# Fletcher Talks Of Campaign Cost

SEATTLE — A statewide effort by hundreds of volunteers has given Art Fletcher, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, a \$65,000 campaign for less than \$17,000 in actual contributions so far the Pasco city councilman said today.

Fletcher was in King County winding up his primary campaign, a six-month effort which has taken him before more than 1,000 meetings in 30 counties.

"The cost of campaigning is far too high these days," Fletcher said, "particularly for the candidate for these important but less dramatic statewide offices. A major cost has been air fares, meals and hotel rooms, and gasoline bills for my car as I've tried to cover as much of the state as possible these last six months.

"What we've spent is \$17,000 in contributions and a human investment of \$50,000 in sweat equity and ingenuity by almost 2,000 volunteers," Fletcher said. "And, to be factual about it, not all of the \$17,000 has yet come in. Unless the heavens open this week, there will probably be a few debts on election day.

"Our certification of can-

didate expense will be filed immediately after the election," Fletcher said. "It will show that total contributions for my six-month primary campaign will be approximately \$15,000.

"In the first four months, less than \$1,000 in contributions was received," he said. "This came primarily from personal friends. Then the campaign began to catch fire, particularly when my self-help and self-determination concepts became nationally recognized."

Fletcher said his single biggest contribution to date has been a \$700 check representing the combined contribution efforts of the members of a youth organization.

"Our treasurer's records show that as of Sept. 8 a total of 1,651 people had contributed an average donation of \$10 each," Fletcher said. "It has been a brown bag campaign all the way and we have made every dollar do double and triple duty."