

# Cherberg Enters Fletcher Lair

If people want to elect members of a team to state government, they can do so. They don't have to be running on a ticket, Lieut. Gov. John Cherberg said here today.

Cherberg, Seattle Democrat, opposed the proposal being advanced that a gubernatorial candidate should be able to name his lieutenant governor running mate.

"People of this state have absolute freedom of choice," said the 58-year-old Seattle Democrat.

"If they want the governor and lieutenant governor elected as a team, they can vote them in," he continued.

Asked about his refusal to meet Art Fletcher, Pasco councilman and Republican

candidate for lieutenant governor, in a debate, Cherberg smiled and noted "I'm the incumbent. I'm not going to pay for advertising and then split it with someone."

The former University of Washington football coach said he felt the lieutenant governor's job is full-time.

"Every candidate I've run against has in his platform to make it a fulltime job. Actually,

the duties have been greatly expanded since I became lieutenant governor."

During the second of his three terms, Cherberg said, he assumed some duties formerly held by the state auditor, and now sits on the State Finance Committee, State Capital committee, the Washington State Patrol Retirement Board and the Oil and Conservation Committee.

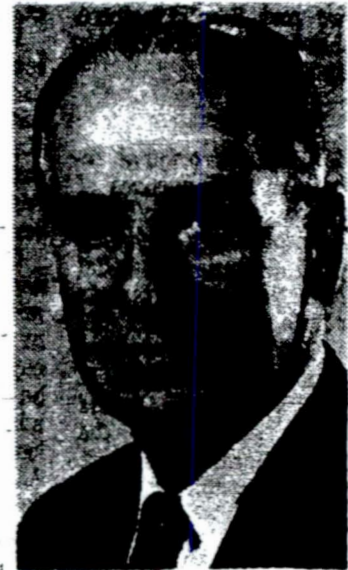
It's also important the office remain responsive to the people rather than be appointed by the governor, he said, since he is the only official elected by all the people "associated with the legislature.

"Washington has one of the most finely developed systems of checks and balances of any in the nation," Cherberg said.

"The lieutenant governor should be independent. He is the one who appoints members of free conference committees and all the important pieces of legislation come out of those."

Cherberg also views his office as similar to that of the "ombudsman," only without its legal set-up.

He favored the "idea of someone to help the citizens



**JOHN CHERBERG**  
...no debate

through the tangles of state government. I think it is good to have someone in my position to guide people."

The answers to the state's problems, he continued, are going to come through "education and training."

"I think everyone has agreed you can't legislate equality, but you can legislature equality of opportunity," he said.