

Seattle Negro Wins a State Primary

Special to The New York Times

SEATTLE, Sept. 21 — A former professional football player is the first Negro to be nominated in Washington State for a state elective office. He is Arthur Fletcher, 43 years old, a Pasco city councilman who swamped his two white Republican opponents in last Tuesday's state primary election for Lieutenant Governor.

This is in a state where Negroes number fewer than 75,000 among a population of more than three million.

Mr. Fletcher's victory came as a surprise since his opponents included Bill Muncey of Seattle, a former world's champion hydroplane driver who has no trouble with name identification in this boating-mad state.

Gov. Daniel J. Evans, a Republican, who had only token party opposition in his own bid for a second term, announced he was delighted to welcome Mr. Fletcher to his "team" of Republican candidates for state office.

Silence maintained

The Evans's team approach is expected to aid Mr. Fletcher in his fight to unseat Lieut. Gov. John A. Cherberg, 57, a Democrat, because Mr. Evans is regarded as a certainty for re-election.

But in the primary Mr. Evans had to remain silent while Mr. Fletcher shouldered



United Press International

Arthur A. Fletcher

his way to a two-to-one victory over Mr. Muncey.

Mr. Fletcher is best identified among voters as the innovator of a Negro neighborhood self-help program in his home community of East Pasco.

He headed the East Pasco Self-help Cooperative Association, which scraped up \$5,000, built a service station, formed a credit union and moved toward construction of a small shopping center. No Federal funds were involved.

"We are teaching people

what they can do for themselves," Mr. Fletcher said, promising that if elected as Lieutenant Governor he would spend his time — when the legislature was not in session — helping the needy with similar projects around the state.

Prepares for Teaching

Mr. Fletcher is a graduate of Washburn University at Topeka, Kan. He also did graduate work at Kansas State University and San Francisco State College. At Washburn, he studied sociology, political science and education in preparation for teaching school. He was also a college football All-American.

The candidate believes he knows what is needed to bring the Negro people into the mainstream of American society.

"There are two problems involved," he once explained. "The Negroes' Negro problem, mainly lack of education and poverty, and the white man's Negro problem, the willingness to accept the Negro once he is ready to make his contribution."

"I've solved my Negro problem and I'm ready to make my contribution."

Asked if he thought he, an over-30 Negro, could work well with Negro militants, Mr. Fletcher replied, "Heck, I've got six young black militants right at home," referring to his six children.

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camping grounds Miwoks in past centuries as