

STATEMENT MADE BY ART FLETCHER AT SEATTLE PRESS CONFERENCE, MAY 3, 1968:

THEY SAY THERE IS NOTHING SO POWERFUL AS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. ALONG THESE LINES, I FEEL THERE SEEMS TO BE A TIME IN OUR HISTORY WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL'S BACKGROUND, EDUCATION, EXPERIENCES - BOTH HIS MISFORTUNES AND HIS GOOD FORTUNES - SEEM TO QUALIFY HIM TO PLAY A ROLE IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF OUR NATION, OUR STATES, OUR CITIES. IT APPEARS TO ME IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND RECOGNIZES HE HAS THESE ESSENTIALS, HE HAS NOT ONLY THE OPPORTUNITY, BUT THE DUTY, TO OFFER HIMSELF. IN THIS LIGHT, I AM OFFERING MYSELF AS A CANDIDATE FOR LT. GOVERNOR ON THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

I FEEL MY EDUCATION IN THE AREAS OF SOCIOLOGY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION - AS WELL AS SOME ECONOMICS - RENDERS ME QUALIFIED FROM THE ACADEMIC POINT OF VIEW.

I FEEL MY EXPERIENCE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY - COVERING 23 YEARS OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PARTY AFFAIRS - GOING ALL THE WAY TO AS HIGH AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE KANSAS STATE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE - CERTAINLY EQUIP ME TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS A REPUBLICAN.

COUPLED WITH THAT, MY EXPERIENCE AS AN ADVISOR TO A FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, WORKING WITH BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE AND BEING AN ASSISTANT IN PUBLIC RELATIONS TO A STATE AGENCY, GIVE ME SOME SPECIAL INSIGHTS INTO THE PROBLEMS OF STATE GOVERNMENT. I FEEL I CAN HELP PAVE THE WAY FOR ORDERLY CHANGE DURING THIS PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

I AM A PRODUCT OF THE GHETTO. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK MY WAY OUT OF THE POVERTY CYCLE THAT HAS PROVED TO BE THE BARRIER FOR MANY WHO WOULD LIKE TO ENTER INTO THE MAIN STREAM. MY TEACHING IN SLUM SCHOOLS AND LIVING IN SLUM AREAS AS I HAVE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE -- AND STILL DO -- ALL ADD UP TO RENDERING ME A UNIQUE CANDIDATE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY AND PRACTICALLY WITH THE MAJOR DOMESTIC ISSUE IN OUR STATE, THE ISSUE IS BOTH HUMAN AND PHYSICAL RENEWAL OF THE VARIOUS POVERTY POCKETS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. I WOULD LIKE TO UTILIZE THE POWER AND PRESTIGE OF THE OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR TO EXTEND A PROGRAM I HAVE ALREADY STARTED WITH A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF SUCCESS - THE EAST PASCO SELF HELP COOPERATIVE. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE STATE AS THE PRIMARY MEANS OF ORGANIZING AND MOBILIZING THE RESOURCES OF THE POOR RESIDENTS OF OUR STATES POVERTY POCKETS SO THEY MIGHT PLAY A MORE MEANINGFUL AND DECISIVE ROLE IN HELPING THEMSELVES AND IN RENEWING AND REDEVELOPING THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

BASICALLY, I AM TALKING ABOUT INITIATING A POINT 4 PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THE FOREIGN AID TYPE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN FINANCING UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I AM SUGGESTING OUR POVERTY POCKETS BE CONSIDERED UNDEVELOPED NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE WE HAVE HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZED AND MOBILIZED IN RETRIEVING THESE RESOURCES.

THIS MEANS A CHANGE FROM THE SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT TYPE PROGRAM - WHICH SEEMS TO BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN THE CURRENT WAR ON POVERTY EFFORT - TO ONE OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT. AS LT. GOVERNOR, I WOULD STRIVE TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF UNDEVELOPED NEIGHBORHOODS ORGANIZE AND DEVISE WAYS TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL ESSENTIALS NEEDED TO MAKE THEIR INVOLVEMENT A SUCCESS.