

# Muncey Evaded Debate: Fletcher

OLYMPIA (AP)—Pasco City Councilman Art Fletcher said today speedboat driver Bill Muncey "evaded" a debate with him Monday before the Mercer Island Republican Women's Club.

Fletcher said Muncey, his rival for the GOP nomination for lieutenant governor, committed himself several weeks in advance to the debate.

An hour before the meeting, he said, he was told by Muncey's campaign manager that "Bill had to be in a boat race on Elliott Bay." He was driving in a power boat race to Victoria, B.C., and back.

Fletcher told the 200 Republican women he was disappointed at Muncey's decision.

"If Bill would like to reconsider, I can still make time for him to debate with me. These final eight days of the campaign, I will be in Spokane, Walla Walla, Tacoma, Pasco, with the final four days in King County. We will be happy to provide a platform anywhere en route."