

# Fletcher Is Optimistic On Job Training

*this reporter really liked the Times!*

Art Fletcher returned to Seattle for a brief visit yesterday but in both a press conference and a speech last night he was looking ahead to the labor problems of the future.

Fletcher, unsuccessful candidate for state attorney general, is presently assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Labor.

In a press conference yesterday he said Seattle is one of the few cities in which contractors have agreed to on-the-job training programs but unions have rejected them.

"I am optimistic that the situation will be ironed out here. We'll wait for the courts to do it," he said. "My concern is that they are not moving fast enough."

Fletcher said that unless an agreeable plan is found, Congress will eventually step in with legislation.

Unless minority groups are given more jobs, the unemployment rate by 1975 will be five non-whites to one white, thus creating a greater demand than ever for welfare.

In a speech before the Golden Year Development Fund Planning Conference of the Seattle King County Council of Camp Fire Girls Fletcher predicted a greater role for the working woman in the 1970s.

Pointing out that in his present position he oversees the Labor Department's Women's Bureau Fletcher said:

"When the legislation was introduced to establish a Women's Bureau it didn't give the bureau a mission. I simply said that there should be a Woman's Bureau and it should look after the affairs of women. I plan to give it a mission."

At present 38 per cent of



—P-I Photo by Stu Hertz

ASST. SEC. FLETCHER  
Spoke on labor in '70s

the working force is composed of women. With child-bearing and rearing years ending earlier and with all the new homemaking conveniences, more and more women will be filling manpower shortages in the 1970s, Fletcher said.

Fletcher, a Nixon appointee, criticized programs developed in the 1960s by saying that many of them were shortsighted. Congress passed Medicare but didn't take manpower into consideration, he said. There aren't enough doctors and nurses to make it work.

Besides a study of future manpower shortages Fletcher noted that he's presently doing a study on job satisfaction.

"A man's employment provides more than just a living," he said. "It's a means of self expression."

As an assistant secretary of labor, Fletcher is responsible for a \$56 million budget, oversees five bureaus and directs 3,600 employees.