

PART I

SEC 5

1972

P 1115-156

STATEMENTS §
1

CORRESPONDENCE (CURRENTLY)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

CITIZENS

FREEMEN

FREEHOLDERS PLAN OF WORK

PHASE I

1. Intensive information and background material gathering, through interviews, go-see trips, reading, discussion etc.
2. Definition of "county home rule" under Amend. 21 from AG's office.
3. Set up office, hire staff, equipment, stationary, library etc. (include files from 50-52 Freeholders)
4. Plan Public Relations and publicity including a monthly fact-sheet.

PHASE II

1. Reach a consensus on broad areas of agreement on goals of Charter, role of King County government-present and future.
2. Propose preliminary framework - draft in outline form based upon broad areas of agreement.
3. Circulate to elected officials to get reaction, response
4. Revise, add more details as agreed upon.

PHASE III

1. Circulate 2nd draft to citizen groups, parties and public for a schedule of four public hearings. (Central, North, East-side, South King County) Allow up to 30 days after hearings for written reactions and responses.
2. Begin preparation of Report to support proposed charter sections.
3. Circulate to King County officials, State legislators, city officials. (Suggest Legislative changes which may be needed)

PHASE IV

1. Rewrite, add last details,
2. Legal review of the final draft for final corrections.
3. Circularize confidentially to team of experts who would include public administrator, political scientist, fiscal expert, planner, engineer, sociologist and editor. (Review by this independent group would be more valuable than a consultant)
4. Stimulate formation of an independent citizen's Committee for King County Charter, broad based, well-financed, active speaker's bureau, bumper strips etc. etc. (After last charter Ellis recommended this action begin 8 months prior to Election.)

PHASE V

1. Unveil proposed County Charter and set-off Charter Election Campaign. ("Full time campaign manager, 4 months before election.") Ellis
2. Publicity, TV, Debates, with all freeholders involved in active role in the explanation of the Charter.

PHASE VI

1. Election Day, November 5, 1968
2. Passage of Charter - Watchdog during period of transition (Based on long-range philosophy that change in county will take a generation, at least)
3. Failure of Charter- Work for major change through state Legislature (Optional County Charter, Optional County Code) or enter 20yr. retirement
4. Either way pass or fail- lobby for state laws needed such as budgeting, state medical examiner, V. QUINBY 4445

RESOURCE PEOPLE WHO COULD SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO KING
COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS (V. CONRY)

General Knowledge

Mr. Donald Sampson, Executive Director
Legislative Council
Olympia, Wn.
(former Freeholder)

Mr. Herb Legg
Attorney General's Office
Olympia, Wn.

Mr. John Chambers
Wn. Assoc. of County Comm.
106 Maple Park
Olympia, Wn.
(Very well-informed)

Mr. Lloyd Anderson
Cornell Howland, Hayes
and Merryfield
Executive Building
Portland, Oregon
(Mult.Co. Charter Chrmn.)

Mr. Ken Tolenaar
Bureau of Municipal Research and
Service
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Mr. Jim Ellis
IBM Bldg.
Seattle, Wn.

Mr. Al King
Kirkland, Wn.

Dr. Brewster Denny
School of Public Admin.
University of Wn.

Miss Ruth Ittner
Bureau of Govt.

Donaho
Donaho and Associates

Mr. Slade Gorton
46th District Legislator
Legis. Interim Committee
Local Government

Prof. Robt. Warren
Political Science Dept.
University of Wn.

Specific Knowledge

County elected, appointed officials and board or commission chairman.

Former officials, Mr. Richard Trowbridge, (former Budget Director under
Scott Wallace)

Mr. Scott Wallace

Mr. Henry Sidell, (on Brock Adams Staff)

State Auditor
Robert V. Graham
Olympia Wn.

Snohomish County Commissioner
Richard Tyler, (ex-Sno.Co.
Planning Dtr.)

Mrs. Eleanor Brand
1st V.P LWV of Wn
(Expert on taxes and Assessor's Office)

Mr. Richard Page
Forward Thrust

Mr. Daryll Eastian,
Attorney, King County Planning Commission

Mr. Robert McAbee
Puget Sound Govt. Conf.

Dr. Richard Slavin, Director
State Planning and Community Affairs Agency
Olympia, Wn.

In Re: King County Charter.

23425 -- 26th Ave. South,
KENT, Wash., Zip 98031.
Feb. 21st, 1968.

To the Fifteen Freeholders,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

This communique is respectfully offered to you at this time in the hope that it may be of some help to you in your monumental task of drawing up a County Charter which hopefully may provide King County with a new and better form of governmental structure than it now has. It is hoped that your final product may prove to be effective, efficient, streamlined, provide as far as possible against graft, dishonesty and bribery; and yet be attractive enough so that when offered for ratification that the Public will accept it.

Geographically King County contains a larger area than either Rhode Island or Delaware; and its population in 1960, as shown by the figures quoted in the World Almanac, was greater than that of any one of the following named States of the American Union, to-wit: Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer noted editorially on May 18th, 1966 that King County is still operating under a governmental form set up in 1854, when the region was undeveloped and "every tax-paying visitor to the courthouse was known by his first name to county officials." Today the forest trails and wagon roads, also the horses and the wagons, have all but disappeared, and since few people will take the trouble to walk, even to the nearest super-market, we live in an era which features hard-surfaced streets and auto-transport, either by bus or by automobile.

As a result many people, very many people, who barely recognise their next door neighbors on sight, may travel fifteen, twenty, or even thirty miles or more, twice a day in going to and from their place of employment. And when they wish to spend some time, with either their dearest friends or nearest relatives, it may be necessary to travel at least as far, or even farther.

Therefore it would appear that the King County of today has outgrown any possible similarity to the English Shires which furnished models for our present county government, and has become in truth a vast modern metropolitan City. Yet the basic elements of Human Nature, including its passions and its selfishnesses, remain just about what they were when Norman William invaded Saxon England in the year 1066.

Ability and Integrity are not necessarily combined as qualities of the same individual. Yet an honest and efficient government is most greatly to be desired. Also: Public Peace, Health, and Safety must be maintained -- for those are the primary reasons for the establishment of a government. At the same time it will be essential to preserve Checks and Balances between the Administrative, Judicial, and Legislative branches.

The past experiences of the City of Seattle should be helpful. Seattle has always had the Mayor and Council form of City government.

Years ago the Council was bicameral, and consisted of a Board of Aldermen and a Common Council. It appears that there was very much bickering and dickering; so that progress failed. Therefore the Board of Aldermen was abolished, and the City's Legislative Body became Unicameral.

For many years Seattle's political campaigns and elections were held on a Partisan basis, and the City's Councilmen were elected by the Ward system. Seattle at last realized that the personal qualities of the man Himself were vastly more important than the Party-tag on his coat lapel, and abolition of partisan City elections followed. The Ward system also perished; for in the "wheeling and dealing" which^{had} resulted, it appeared that not only did ward-heelers and ward-bosses tend to profit thereby, but also the richer wards got everything they wanted, while the poorer suffered. Today, with Seattle elections held on a city-wide non-partisan basis, any voter may approach and interview any Councilman, or even the Mayor, with a good chance that he will be listened to; for that official may want his vote at the next election. After all, every vote counts; and it should never be forgotten that Oliver Cromwell was elected from his district of St. Ives, to that long Parliament which ultimately cut off a king's head: by a majority of JUST ONE VOTE. (See Green's Short History of England.)

Incidentally partisan elections of County Commissioners by Districts haven't served King County too well in the past. For usually we have wound up by having two of them gang up against the third; with the result that he and his constituents might about as well stay home until after the next election.

It is therefore respectfully recommended that Partisanship and Districting be abandoned, and that henceforth the County Legislative Body, and the County Mayor -- if there is to be one -- shall be elected on a non-partisan basis and without regard to their place of residence, so long as they reside within King County, and are qualified Voters (and preferably freeholders) therein.

As to number: Some have suggested that the number seven is a Lucky Number. Let it be said that the number three has often been regarded as a lucky number also. Therefore three times three, or Nine, should really be a Magic Number. In confirmation let it be noted that Seattle has been served by a Council of nine members for over forty years, and in all that time there has been no serious agitation to either reduce or increase the number of Councilmen, so evidently the number nine has been a satisfactory choice.

For many years the term of office for Seattle's councilmen was set at three years, and three members were up for election each year. This system had its advantages. It kept the council members reminded that their offices were not held in fee; it kept the electorate reminded that it had civic as well as family duties to perform; and yet there was provision for continuity of policy by virtue of the fact that two-thirds of the members remained in office, from one year to the next, at all times. There seemed at times that there was a tendency for those members who were up for re-election to run as a team against the field of newcomers. This possibility has been met in recent years by requiring the candidates to file for office and be elected "by Position". By this simple expedient each man up for re-election has to run on his own personal record. This is undoubtably both just and good.

As between the "Commission and Manager" and the "Mayor and Council" forms of government it is believed that the Public would prefer to "Buy" (or choose) the "Mayor and Council" form, as being the more familiar form. Sometimes a name helps a lot. The firm

of "Robb and Steele" for instance, found it desirable to spend much money in advertising: "Don't be afraid of the name".

The Council is the Legislative Body and customarily has the authority to over-ride a Mayor's veto by a two-thirds majority vote. The Council provides by its acts the money to pay the bills, and one is thereby reminded of that ancient adage: "The man who pays the piper calls the tune".

The Mayor has the task of seeing that the "Acts" of the Council are carried out. It is therefore desirable that he not only be familiar with their wording, but also with the arguments, both pro and con, which preceded their adoption. It certainly was not an accident that among the most efficient mayors of Seattle one finds the names of "Hi" Gill, Arthur Langlie, and "Dorm" Braman. These men had served in the Council before they became Mayor. It is believed that one of the prime duties of a County Mayor should be the task of presiding at the meetings of the County Council. If there could be found a way to arrange for it, it might be well to require that the County Mayor shall first have served on the County Council.

The tasks facing the Mayor of the City of Seattle are varied and numerous. Those which would face such a sprawling urban unit as King County would be of the same order, only perhaps more varied and more numerous. It is thought therefore that it might be well to provide the Mayor with a Chief Administrative Assistant or Chief of Staff; who should be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of a majority of the Council, for a term of perhaps four years, and who -- under the general supervision of the Mayor -- would discharge the administrative duties of that office. This Principal Assistant Mayor therefore must be a highly qualified man, both as to ability and integrity; and should only be removable for malfeasance in office, or for demonstrated incompetence.

Inasmuch as the duties of the Mayor will consist principally of presiding at Council meetings, meeting and greeting the public, and providing general orders to his Aide; in other words act as General Chairman of the Board, it is suggested that perhaps the County Council might be authorized to elect him to his office.

In essence then, the above outline suggests a variant of the Commission and Manager scheme of government under a Mayor and Council format, with the managerial post hopefully limited enough so that the Manager cannot become a king. With respect to salaries: it is realized that full-time work deserves and should receive full-time pay. However it has been noticed that School Boards, Park Boards, the City Planning Commission, all function on a no-salary basis; while members of the Port of Seattle Commission receive salaries of one dollar per year each -- plus allowances for legitimate expenses. Perhaps, therefore, if County Council meetings can be held down to one, or at most two, meetings per month; it might be feasible to persuade eminently competent civic-minded citizens to undertake the service as County Council members, and possibly even the chairmanship as Mayor, for the nominal salary of one dollar per year.

If so, it would seem unlikely that it would be necessary to hold Hundred-dollar-a-Plate Dinners to capture enough money to pay costs of campaigning for these offices.

There is one unit provided in the Seattle City Charter which is believed to be quite unique, and not found among other cities. It is called the Board of Public Works. As a Board its primary purpose is the letting of Contracts; for construction, garbage collection, water supply, or what have you. But the make-up of the Board is unique. Each member is a specialist in his own field. The plans and specifications for each contract are carefully examined and if found to affect the operations of more than one member of the Board they are circulated to each of the Departments affected so that notes may be made as to what is being proposed. After completion of the contract the records of the completed work are recirculated so that the various Departments affected may bring their own records up to date. Membership of the Board of Public Works is vested in the City Engineer, the City Superintendent of Buildings, and the Superintendents of City Parks, City Water, and City Light. Your attention is respectfully invited to those sections of the Seattle Charter which relate to the qualifications and duties of each of these gentlemen, both individually and as a Board. It is felt that such attention may be found of value to you in your efforts to produce a Great Charter, for the Seattle Charter in its present form reflects the problems met by a great City, and the expedients employed to meet those problems, after almost a hundred years of trial and error, study and try again. (Seattle was incorporated by the Legislature as a City in 1869).

With regard to the Judicial Branch of County Government. There was a time when Judges were nominated on Partisan Tickets, and elected as Democrats or Republicans, and sometimes a young lawyer just out of Law School, whose only practical qualification was the possession of License to Practice Law, would file his candidacy; or some older man, despairing to make a living at regular practice would file; so once in a while inept and incompetent persons got elected. So the Rules were changed to make Judicial elections by Position, or by Department, and on a Non-Partisan basis. As now handled the results have seemed to be gratifying. However it may be of interest to cite an item appearing on Page 153 of a volume entitled "United States. Formation of the Union"; the same being "House Document No. 398. -- 69th Congress, 1st Session", published by the Gov't Printing Office, Washington, 1927. It purports to be a transcript from one of the Journals of the American Constitutional Convention; and quotes Doctor Franklin as follows:

"Docr Franklin observed that two modes of chusing the Judges had been mentioned, to-wit, by the Legislature and by the Executive. He wished such other modes to be suggested as might occur to other gentlemen; it being a point of great moment. He would mention one which he had understood was practiced in Scotland. He then in a brief and entertaining manner related a Scotch mode, in which the nomination proceeded from the Lawyers, who always selected the ablest of the profession in order to get rid of him, and share his practice among themselves. It was here he said the interest of the electors to make the best choice, which should always be made the case if possible."

Doctor Benjamin Franklin was reckoned to be wise, even in his own time; so if the King County Bar Association will nominate two candidates for each Judgeship as election time comes around, perhaps we of the general electorate may always elect good Judges.

"King County presently elects seven independent administrative officers." ---- "They hire their own staffs, set up their own employee salary schedules, job qualifications and training procedures."

The costs of a county-wide election campaign, for any one of these offices, must almost certainly exceed a year's salary for the officer elected to fill it. This fact has led to numerous curious ~~practices~~ practices; some of which are merely questionable, while others are clearly unethical or even criminal; ranging from compulsory contributions to "Flower Funds" and "Campaign War Chests" by appointees, and spoilsmanship in making their appointments; to special privileges permitted to favored individuals who had made large campaign grants.

But to consider the Offices individually:

The office of County Clerk, functions primarily to serve the Superior Court, and to keep all Court records and files. It is respectfully suggested that the Judges of the Superior Court be authorized to appoint the County Clerk. To the extent that he collects fines and case filing fees, and pays out witness and jury fees, he ought perhaps to be -- or to employ -- a qualified book-keeper.

The County Auditor performs many functions, largely clerical. He acts as County Recorder of Deeds and many other documents which relate to Real Estate and to Personal Property; directs the Department of Motor Vehicle licensing, and the Department of Elections; issues Marriage Licenses; collects and forwards License and Recording Fees to the proper parties; works with, and checks on the fiscal activities of, the other County Departments and Officers, -- particularly, of course, the Treasurer; and acts as Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. It is thought that the County Council as proposed above might reasonably be allowed to select its own clerk, ~~===~~ even as Seattle's City Council now does; but that if the Auditor is to become an appointive official, the only body which is truly neutral enough to exercise such a prerogative is the King County Superior Court. Further, that considering the Fiscal involvements of the County Auditor, it is respectfully suggested that it might be as well to require that he shall be a Qualified and Licensed Certified Public Accountant.

The County Assessor has responsible charge of evaluating all King County Real Property, and such forms of Personal Property as may be, from time to time, by Law prescribed, for Taxing Purposes. It is believed that the best qualified and most responsible men in the Real Estate Appraisal field are very apt to be members of the American Appraisal Institute. Members of this organization are required to take special Appraisal studies, and qualify by taking a very searching examination which they MUST PASS. The organization also requires high ethical performance of its members. It is therefore respectfully suggested that, in the interests of Truth, Fair-play and Justice to all, that the County Assessor shall henceforth be appointed by the Judges of the King County Superior Bench, and that one of his essential qualifications shall be this: that he must be a Member (in good standing) of the American Real Estate Appraisal Institute.

The duties of the County Treasurer are pretty well known to your Honorable body. There have been at least two former County Treasurers who got into serious trouble with the Law, either through lack of integrity or from inability to control and keep proper check over the actions of subordinates.

It is respectfully suggested that the County Treasurer shall be appointed by the County Mayor after conference with His Honor's Principal Administrative Aide. That the appointment must be ratified by at least a majority of the County Council. That the term of Office may reasonably be indefinite as long as the incumbent demonstrates ability and integrity. And that one of the qualifications for holding this office shall be this: that the appointee shall be a qualified and licensed Certified Public Accountant in good standing.

The Coroner's duties are unique. It is his duty to investigate all deaths from suspicious causes, or where the decedent was unattended by a physician. He also has authority to call inquests, and is the only public official in the County who has authority to make certain arrests. The Coroner's duties are medical and legal, and of the first order of importance. In the past the office has at times been sought, and even occupied, by Porticians; who presumably sought to profit from disposal of the bodies of the unidentified and the indigent poor. Present thinking is that it is better that the Coroner should be a qualified physician. It is respectfully suggested that since his principal occupation is to search out and report on facts which may be needed by the Courts in making just decisions; and that in doing so he should be independently free from ties which might bind him to the will of the County Mayor and Council, or County Commission and its Administrator, and especially free from compulsory pressures which might be applied either by the Sheriff or the Prosecuting Attorney; very probably the Coroner should be appointed by the Judges of the King County Superior Court. It is believed that the officer should be appointed, rather than elected, for reasons heretofore mentioned -- both above and elsewhere in this letter.

We come now to the consideration of the Offices of County Sheriff and County Prosecutor. The two positions which have the responsibility of providing the Public with Peace and Safety. The Sheriff must have the deathless courage of former Sheriff Matt Starwich and of former Seattle Police Chief Claude Bannick. The Prosecutor must have courage and ability equal to these qualities as exhibited by the late Ewing Colvin and the late Alfred Lundin. How consistently to ensure that men of their quality will fill the offices is not known. Chief Bannick was appointed by Mayor Bertha Landes who was elected in a non-partisan City election. The other three gentlemen were elected to office in partisan elections. Sheriff Starwich had office in the Prohibition Era, which made his job even harder.

It is respectfully suggested that in the course of your studies you take occasion to interview former Seattle Mayors William F. Bevin, Gordon Clinton and, if still living and available, Charles L. Smith. Also former Councilman and occasionally Acting-Mayor David Levine. All four of these gentlemen became fairly well acquainted with the problems of Seattle, and it is believed that King County, as of today is merely an overgrown City, with big-city problems. Also it is thought that you might get some good leads from former Deputy-Prosecutor David J. Williams, a long time associate of the late Ewing Colvin. Mr. Williams was one of the Freeholders who served on the committee which drew up the County Charter which failed of ratification.

From something he once said, it is believed that he anticipated that it would fail of ratification. So an interview is suggested.

Planning. The City of Seattle has heretofore found it to be eminently desirable provide for the appointment of a Planning Commission and to set up a City Planning Office. To anyone who has become at all familiar with the plats in the older sections of the City, the reason and necessity for Planning is immediately obvious. For previous to 1910, or thereabouts, each platlor designed and filed his plat without much regard to how it fitted in with the surrounding plats. The result was that the City just "grewed like Topsy", and much expensive Condemnation work had to be done in order to establish Arterial Streets. In the opinion of some people there should be closer coordination, even today, between the City Planners and the Engineering Department. King County should benefit from study of Seattle's past errors and successes. Any "Planning Commission" should be advisory only; or so it would seem; and the Planners of Suburbia might, perhaps, well work under the County Engineer. For he is the official who is responsible for the proper location, design, and construction, of all County Highways. Also his signature of approval must appear on all Plats, before the County Commissioners (or their successors in office) will accept them, or the County Auditor will file them for Record.

Personnel. One of the poignant memories associated with 33 years of service in the City Engineering Department is the remembrance that every time a new County Commission was elected we soon greeted a new staff of janitors and elevator operators. Not because the former personnel was inefficient in their operation of push-brooms or elevators, but because a new lot of doorbell-ringers wanted to be rewarded for ringing doorbells and passing out campaign literature, and the Commissioners recognised their indebtedness to them. After 1937 it was customary to find a new County Engineer also, every time the janitorial staff was changed; and shortly thereafter there would be a majority of new faces in the County Engineer's Department. And for the same reasons. The City of Seattle had discarded this method of selecting personnel many years before, and had adopted a Civil Service System. To critics it must be admitted that Civil Service is not perfect. But no human institution is. Perfection is an Ideal, and if it exists in reality, Perfection exists only in Heaven. Seattle has a Civil Service Board which is appointed by the Mayor. The Board has a Secretary, who is also the Chief Examiner. Applicants for appointments under Civil Service receive credit for honorable military or naval service; are given qualifying examinations which they must pass, are interviewed by the personnel clerk of the Department in which they seek employment and if judged worthy of trial are given a temporary appointment. At the end of the trial period, if performance has been acceptable, the appointment is confirmed. After that: time served and merit shown govern pay raises and opportunity to take new examinations. In brief that is the system as remembered. It is worthy of a detailed study by your Honorable Body. One of the complaints alleged against Civil Service is that it encourages time-servers and drones. A great deal depends on the Boss. Enthusiasm filters from the top down. It does not bubble up from the bottom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles R. Stank-

Copy sent to Mr. Davis.
Exec - Scott. Marin. Leese-

R E P O R T

TO THE KING COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

ON A

HOME RULE CHARTER

From -
The Municipal League of Seattle
and King County
February 26, 1968

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by the Municipal League of Seattle and King County as a service to the elected Freeholders. Its purpose is to provide helpful information and hopefully a starting point in the preparation of a Home Rule Charter for King County.

This report is the result of a year-long effort of over fifty volunteer members of the Municipal League. This committee established as its objective a study of the existing King County Government as well as possible alternatives with their advantages and disadvantages--particularly as these alternatives are applied to King County and its political realities. The group also imposed upon itself these limitations and conditions:

1. Keep in sight the kind of government deemed desirable by the people in King County.
2. Develop information that the Freeholders will want to consider but do not try to do their job for them.
3. Seek a structure of government that will
 - a. Be capable of meeting demands of a changing society.
 - b. Attract and hold capable personnel to positions both elective and appointive.
4. Recognize that "change for the sake of change" is not necessarily desirable.

To accomplish this study the members were divided into four subcommittees: Finance, County Commissioners, Independent County Offices, and Comparative County Government.

Work included:

1. The study, observations and recommendations of each member.
2. Numerous interviews with elected and appointed county officials as well as experts in political science and government.
3. A review of other county charters and methods along with related literature on county government.
4. A review of the recommendations of other civic groups as well as a consultant's report on King County.
5. Over 50 meetings and work sessions.
6. A 150 page report from subcommittees.
7. Gathering of reference material, later to be made available to the Freeholders.

EXISTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The basic structure of the existing County Government was established by the first territorial assembly in 1854, when the population was largely rural, sparse and scattered. Today King County contains over one million people, and by 1985 it is estimated it will have another three-quarter million.

It is not likely that anyone today would organize a county as King County was organized a century ago. The County Commissioners have both legislative and administrative powers and duties. There are seven other independently elected officials with administrative duties and five independently appointed administrators. Each acts independently. Each establishes his own methods of administration. An overall goal is difficult to establish. Coordinated effort or planning is also difficult to achieve.

The following are general suggested improvements:

1. Separate administrative and legislative powers and functions.
2. Increase the number of legislators.
3. Create a strong, overall administrator.
4. Create modern procedures for fiscal planning and management.
5. Provide better methods for individual citizens to present ideas and complaints as well as identify with and feel a part of their government.
6. Provide for long-range planning as well as for accomplishment of long-range goals.

King County is not likely to escape from new and larger demands for services and programs. With its present structure (organization), King County is poorly equipped to anticipate, plan for, and perform the tasks and functions necessary in the years ahead.

The comparison is often made between a local unit of government and a commercial business. However, they each have different purposes and objectives. These differences often require different structures. A public corporation cannot be administered in all instances on the same basis as a profit making business.

ADMINISTRATOR

An important improvement to the structure of King County Government would be a provision for a single executive or administrator. Presently, there is no central authority which is responsible for the administration of the entire operation of county government. The ten elected administrators receive their basic direction and guidance from the State Constitution and Laws. Administrative requirements imposed on the Commissioners, along with the independent authority of the other elected officials have virtually prevented the commissioners from looking at the total operations of the county and establishing policy and direction for it.

