

# Recall vote possible by May

**By RICHARD ZAHLER**  
A recall issue on removal of Mayor Wes Uhlman from office could be before voters in a special city election by late May.  
Recall charges against Uhlman were certified yesterday by Prosecutor Christopher T. Bayley. A Fire Fighters Union official said sufficient petition signatures to force an election could be gathered within a month.  
Uhlman already has conceded that he expects the recall drive will be successful in gathering the 47,000 valid signatures needed for an election.  
Dick Warbrouck, Fire Fighters Union vice president, said "a concentrated

effort," with door-to-door canvassing in every Seattle neighborhood, will begin as soon as a ballot synopsis is prepared by Bayley's office.  
The synopsis must be written within 15 days and Warbrouck said it would take another three days to have recall petitions printed.  
"We figure that within three or four days after that, we will have had at least one person in every precinct in Seattle," he said.  
**PETITION** signatures could be filed with the city in a month, he said. Based on past experience, it would take election officials about three weeks to verify the

signatures as those of registered city voters.  
The City Council then would be required to call an election no less than 45 days and no more than 60 days after petitions were certified.  
Recall sponsors contend that Uhlman committed misfeasance by hiring and retaining the city budget director, Walter Hundley, while knowing him to be "incompetent." It also is charged that Uhlman attempted to "cover up" Hundley's incompetence by making a "false statement" to the City Council about Fire Department management.  
Bayley's certification of charges does not constitute

a determination of whether they are true.  
Uhlman has labeled the recall issue a question of whether the city is managed "by self-serving bureaucrats or by the elected officials."  
"I look forward to placing the issue squarely before the public," he said Friday.  
Warbrouck acknowledged that the charges were designed to get the matter certified, and that "other issues" would be dealt with after an election is set.  
The recall drive started after Uhlman dismissed former Fire Chief Jack Richards.  
**BOTH UHLMAN** and Bayley said Friday that Wash-

ington's recall law is virtually "meaningless," and should be reviewed or reformed.  
Bayley stressed that State Supreme Court decisions in the early 1960s have removed any authority for prosecutors to determine whether charges against a public official are true.  
Rather, he said, legal authorities only can rule whether charges, if they were true, would constitute grounds for recall.  
The present recall campaign against Uhlman is the second in nine months. The first was based on assertions by some City Light workers about Gordon Vickery's management of the utility.

# Water supply to be tested for chemicals

Testing will begin Monday on Seattle's water supply to check for organic chemicals, the Environmental Protection Agency announced yesterday.  
Seattle will be the first city west of the Mississippi to have its water sampled in the E. P. A. survey of 80 cities.  
Clifford V. Smith, E. P. A. Northwest regional administrator, said Seattle is being studied because its drinking water is one of the nation's best surface supplies of high-quality water with no industrial contamination at the source.  
In Cincinnati and New Orleans, chlorine is suspected of combining with other chemicals in the water to form organic compounds which may present human health problems.  
Smith said Seattle water, although chlorinated, may have a relatively small number of organic compounds because there are no industrial sources above the city's supply intakes.

# 4-point plan urged on I-90

**By BOB LANE**  
The Interstate 90 project, stalled in controversy and indecision for many months, was nudged a bit yesterday by Gov. Dan Evans' ad hoc committee of local officials.  
After about two hours of debate, the governor's I-90 committee approved a four-point program that:  
Recommended the Highway Commission begin preparing for a new court-required hearing on Interstate 90 plans. It would be held in the fall.  
Asked the Puget Sound Governmental Conference committee on I-90 to work with Metro and the Highway Department in designing a study on the withdrawal of plans for crossing Mercer Island and Lake Washington and substitution of a mass-transit project. The committee later will decide if the study will be carried out.  
(There has been no significant support among government officials for the use of mass transit entirely for the I-90 project, but officials believe that alternatives must be studied in as much detail as the highway proposal.)  
Asked the Highway Department to draft a letter describing the new I-90 action for the federal government. That would satisfy a federal requirement that the state describe by June 30 its plans for the interstate project.  
Said Evans and Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman should go to Washington, D. C., to describe their concept for a major I-90 transit-related project to federal officials and to seek some support for their idea, which centers on a transit-only tunnel beneath downtown Seattle and expanded use of freeways for bus operation.  
**EVANS AND Uhlman** last month recommended construction of a lake crossing having six lanes for autos and two for transit (described as a 3-2T-3 bridge) instead of a 10-lane bridge (4-2T-4) planned by the Highway Department and supported by Mercer Island and Bellevue.  
They said the Connecticut Street interchange should be completed and that bus-only lanes should be built to the Union Station which has been proposed as a transportation center.

# County police ask review of cutbacks

**By LOU CORSALETTI**  
County police have gathered more than 1,000 petition signatures from citizens asking for a review of cutbacks in the Public Safety Department's 1975 budget.  
A spokesman for the Public Safety Employees Local 519 said hundreds of petitions still have not been turned in. Two different petitions are being circulated by union members, but both have the same aim — to bring the Police Department budget, which already has been approved, back before the County Council for revision.  
The petitions are being turned over to Councilman Paul Barden, chairman of the Council Operations and Judiciary Committee.  
**MEMBERS OF** the local contend that police services to residents in unincorporated areas will be severely curtailed due to budget cuts.  
Lawrence G. Waldt, public safety director, said the positions involved in the reductions and transfers were administrative personnel — officers in research and planning, marine patrol and other staff services.  
The union also has taken issue with officers assuming responsibility for investigating nonfatal traffic accidents on county roads. Previously, this was the duty of the State Patrol.  
Waldt said county police

in the north county area now are investigating all nonfatal accidents. In other areas of the county they assist state troopers with nonfatal accidents and only assume full responsibility when a trooper is not available.  
The petition contends that the added responsibility slows response time for other calls, such as assaults, burglaries, robberies and other crimes.  
**BARDEN HAS** asked Waldt to appear before his committee Tuesday.  
Barden also has asked for an explanation on the department's hiring a consulting firm now conducting an efficiency study of the Police Department.  
Waldt said the contract with WOFAC, the consulting firm, can be terminated by either party on 24-hour notice. The contract calls for a \$68,000 fee if the contract is carried to its full one-year term.  
Barden has prepared an ordinance which eliminates from the 1975 budget the position held by Jack Porter, former sheriff, who has been an executive assistant to Waldt. Porter, however, must be kept on the payroll because of a "grandfather" clause in the County Charter.  
The proposed ordinance also would prohibit Waldt from continuing the contract with WOFAC after February 1 without approval of Barden's committee.

# New bus station now operating

The Montlake Flyer Station, the first major construction project completed by Metro Transit and the Highway Department, went into operation today.  
Express buses operating across Lake Washington on the Evergreen Point Bridge stop at the new station at Montlake Boulevard to permit passengers to transfer to local buses serving the University of Washington area and Capitol Hill.  
Passengers also may transfer from local buses to express buses going to downtown Seattle or across the lake to East Side communities.

Metro said it will establish a new shuttle-bus service running Monday through Saturday from the Montlake Flyer Station to the University District to improve the convenience of the transfer point. No. 4 and 48 buses also will run from the station to University Way Northeast.  
Metro Transit's winter schedule changes will take effect Monday. A number of improvements in service

have been planned.  
Service in West Seattle will be improved to eliminate the need for area residents to transfer when traveling from Alki Point to the West Seattle Junction.  
Metro will take over the university's popular Rainier U-Tran service and will operate it as the No. 77 Rainier-University Flyer.  
Schedules listing those and other changes are available.

# Councilman proposes redistricting commission

Creation of a seven-member nonpartisan commission to look into the recently approved redistricting plan for County Council districts has been suggested by Republican County Councilman Bob Dunn.  
Dunn said the motion will be introduced to the Council Monday. He said the proposal is in response to the controversy over Council approval of a redistricting ordinance which would be effective for this year's election involving four of the nine Council members.  
The fairness of redistricting prior to the election was questioned by Democrats. The accuracy of the available census data and whether a partisan body is able to district itself in a bipartisan manner also were questioned.  
The redistricting plan was prepared by the Republican majority on the Council and approved by a 5-to-4 vote along party lines.  
Dunn suggested that the commission be composed of the chairmen of the County Republican and Democratic Central Committees, a professor from the University of Washington geography department, a professor from the U. W. political science department and one representative each from the League of Women Voters, the Seattle-King County Municipal League and the Central Labor Council.  
The duties of the commission would be to analyze and evaluate the redistricting ordinance as related to meeting Charter requirements and the accuracy of available census data. The commission would report to the Council by March 15.

# Freeholders want to drop pamphlet

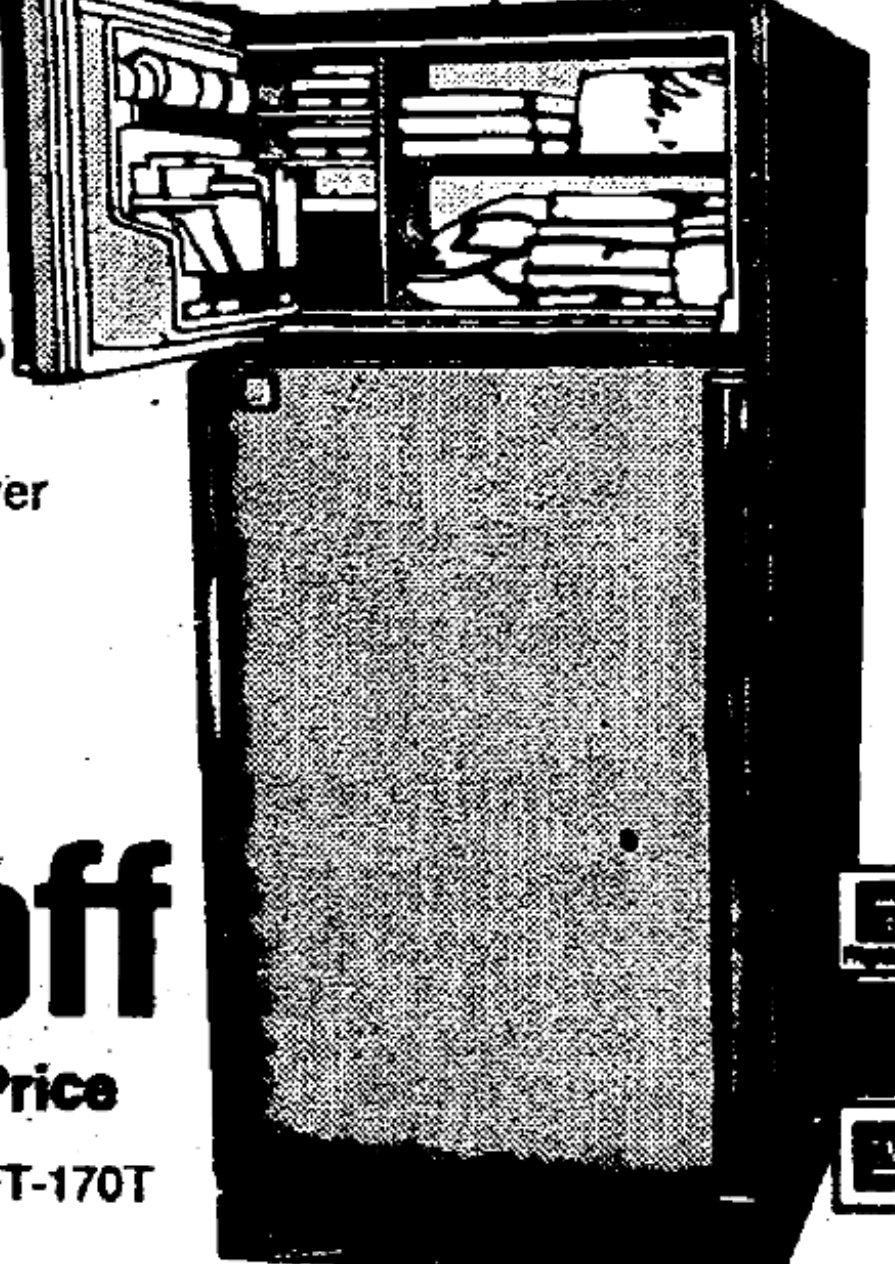
**By DEBBY LOWMAN**  
A requirement that the city issue voters pamphlets was removed from the Seattle Board of Freeholders' first draft of a new city charter Thursday night.  
Some members argued it would require the city to spend money on a pamphlet that voters may not want. The matter should be left to ordinance, said Glen Hudson.  
James Behrend was the most ardent supporter of the pamphlet. He estimated that it would cost the city less than \$10,000 to produce the pamphlet.  
"It is very important that a candidate who can't afford to buy a lot of media time have some way to inform the voters of his platform," Behrend said.  
Only Mike Ruby and Behrend supported the voters' pamphlet. Helen West, Joe Tiller, Jane Sylvester, Ed Riley, Karen Rahm, George Pattee, Ann Ormsby, Hudson, Virginia Gunby and Norm Rice opposed it.  
**THE BOARD** also voted to keep a City Council auditor. The auditor would be a "watchdog over the executive," said Ms. Gunby. "It is a very important new check which should be added."  
The duties would include checking the city's programs for "efficiency and effectiveness."  
Pattee argued that the Council always has had the power to appoint an auditor if it wanted and the board should not mandate the extra expenditure.  
The board changed the name of the city treasurer to financial director. The financial director, appointed by the mayor, would invest the city's funds, following the policies and procedures set by an investment committee made up of the

mayor, a Council member, Council auditor, city attorney and financial director.  
An attempt by Behrend to have two citizens included on the committee was defeated, 9 to 1, with Rice and Ruby abstaining.  
**MEMBERS ARGUED** that the investment committee required people with special knowledge. If two citizens were added, "we could end up with a lot of people without any expertise on the board," said Ms. Sylvester. "I don't want them handling my 10 cents."  
Both the financial director and the auditor would serve at the pleasure of their appointers.

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