

# Dem is 'non-politician'

## Lawyer aims for senate

By ALICE COLLINS

Jim Elemen calls himself "non-politician" and "independent politician." When he's referring to his race for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat of Philip Hart, it's "my underdog candidacy."

The 40-year-old Birmingham lawyer, who's had a long-time love affair with international law, tried before and lost. But he says, "This time the public is going to reject big government and its attempt to solve our problems." He also says the voters will reject the politicians associated with it—like Sen. of State Richard Austin and Rep. Don Riegle and James O'Hara, the better-known candidates in his race.

It was quiet last week in Elemen's law office near downtown Birmingham where he's directing his campaign.

"In this whole campaign, there's been no discussion of foreign policy. And that's something I can't quite understand," said the candidate, who, at 39, bears a slight physical resemblance to U.S. Sen. George McGovern.

"THE SENATE is the area where foreign policy is all important. And that's really the expertise I would bring to the job," said Elemen.

"The biggest problem of all mankind is warfare. I always believed it was a problem that could be solved. And why not solve it on the international level the same way we do within our own country?"

In 1960, Jim Elemen sat down with the United Nations Charter and labored over its passages, drafting a World Constitution that would reform the international body and take away the unilateral right of member states to wage war.

ELEMEN'S World Constitution provides for executive, legislative and judicial branches of government for the United Nations.

"The United Nations is not workable because one state has one vote, regardless of its size." He believes setting it up more like the United States government will make it work.

His proposed constitution, which has attracted the attention of international lawyers, received only token responses from former President Richard Nixon and the Department of State when he sent it to Washington for consideration.

Under Elemen's plan, the United Nations would be structured in tiers. There would be four countries in the top tier—the United States, Russia, India and China, each with 40 votes.

Four more tiers of countries would be layered under that, according to populations.

The decisions of the United Nations would be backed up by an international police force and many of the problems solved by a "workable World Court."

"I DON'T THIS off to Nixon, in a token sense, as leader of the country and got a token response," said Elemen. "It was forwarded to the Secretary of State."

"I published about 1,000 copies. Lawyers all over the world have shown an interest in it."

"Litigation is my bread and butter," said Elemen. "but my love is international law." In 1964, after two years with the legal department of Chrysler Corp., he formed the firm of Elemen, Young, O'Rourke, Brune and Burn.

He's chairman of the Detroit Bar's international law committee and past chairman of the Michigan international law committee.

"I don't want to give the impression that I'm against the United Nations," he continued. "At least it's a place to talk. But reform is needed to make it work."

ELEMEN IS RUNNING on a 10-point platform that calls for stopping big government and forced school busing.

"What I am supportive of is non-coercive integrated housing. And I live no other candidate is going to have the guts to say that, especially in the suburbs," he said. He's also calling for the reconsideration of abortion-on-demand. "It's a dangerous trend," he said.

"American military power should be without challenge at this crucial time. It should be used to conduct a foreign policy that leads the world toward better institutions of peace."

Elemen ran against G. Mervyn Williams and Jerome Cavanaugh for the U.S. Senate nomination in 1966. "I was the state's first anti-Vietnam War candidate," he said.

In 1970, he lost the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 18th District.

JANICE ELEMEN managed her husband's earlier campaigns. "She can't do it this time," said Elemen. She has to stay non-political as the head.

### Orchestra closes concert season

The Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra concludes its 48th season at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 22 at Southfield High School, Labors at 10 Mile in Southfield.

Under the direction of Henry Ben Whitson, The Classical Arts and Company will perform Act 1 and 2 of "Othello" by Verdi.

Since their last appearance, they performed at the Danish-American 1975 July 4th celebration at Roshild Hills near Aalborg, Denmark. More recently, they returned from a successful concert tour of Japan.

For ticket information call Mrs. William Jordan at 538-5288.

A Rummage Sale to support the Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 5 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Detroit.

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of lobbying throughout Michigan for Communist Cause, the nationwide claims' action group.

The Elemen live in Bloomfield Township and are the parents of a daughter, Stephanie, 14, and a son, James, 12, 11.

The candidate was raised in Farmington, a small factory town outside of Kalamazoo. "I was the oldest of seven children, and we were kind of poor," he said.

He went to the University of Michigan, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1950 and a law degree in 1952. He held his way through school working in a factory.

"It's all for fun," said Elemen when asked about the many legal troubles that line the shelves in his office. Elemen is part owner of the Metropolitan Racquet Club and also plays often at the the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club.

"I've picked up a few medals with my wife and by myself," he said.

**JUST GETTING ON** the primary election ballot is going to be one of the toughest hurdles Elemen has to cross. The law requires 17,000 certified signatures coming from at least 20 counties in the state. "It's going to go down to the wire for us," he said. "Our goal is 25,000 signatures."

In order to be certain we have enough qualified signatures."

Elemen advertised for campaign workers in the classified sections of newspapers throughout the state. "We have many young people out with our petitions."

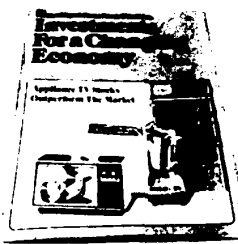
He's publicly pledged to spend about \$100,000 on his primary campaign—10 percent of the \$1.5 million permitted by election law.

Elemen describes himself as being traditional and conservative.

"I'm something the Democrats have never had before—a right wing I don't want to leave the Democratic Party. I want to work within it."

"When it gets down to the ultimate question, the Democrats vote in favor of the public interests and the Republicans vote for the business interests."

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