

Damman visits roots, runs for senate

Rochester has a special meaning for Lt. Gov. James J. Damman. Seven years ago, when he was a Troy city councilman, Damman announced his candidacy for the State House of Representatives in Rochester because he was running against two persons from that area of the house district.

Monday evening he was back, this time visiting the American Legion Hall with old friends and new supporters as he seeks a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Damman, 44, is seeking the Republican nomination to succeed Sen. Robert Griffin, who is retiring.

"THEY TOLD me nine years ago when I announced my candidacy for the Troy City Council that it would be good experience, though of course I couldn't hope to win. They told me the same thing seven years ago when I ran for the legislature," he recalled.

Damman served a term in the council, then won two terms in the house before Gov. William G. Milliken invited him to be his running mate as lieutenant governor.

Rochester also has another, less happy meaning for Damman. It is the residence of Elizabeth Howe, who in 1974 was Oakland County Democratic chairman. Mrs. Howe scattered letters all over the state alleging that Damman, as a Troy official, had some funny land dealings with a Lincoln Investment Co.



JAMES J. DAMMAN
Moving up?

The upshot was a series of newspaper stories and a formal, detailed investigation by the state attorney general. Damman was cleared of any wrongdoing, but the attorney general never commented on the morality of it all. The cloud has hung over Damman's head ever since.

O&E, OU to sponsor 'course by newspaper'

"I have a more conservative point of view," begins sociologist Jesse R. Pitts, who will handle the classroom portion of "Crime and Punishment in America," a Courses by Newspaper offering.

"Some would say I'm a heartless SOB and an Archie Bunker. I would say I'm firm and tough-minded," he adds with dry, double-edged wit.

Textbook will be a 15-part series of articles in Observer & Eccentric Newspapers beginning Jan. 5. Prof. Pitts' classes will meet 8:30-10 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 9 in the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, 746 Purdy.

Known formally as SOC 320—"Sociology of Crime and Punishment"—the four-credit course will have two additional features: the tough instructor's own published comments on several of the articles, and guest appearances by some of the best-known law enforcement specialists in the metropolitan area.

OHO-BORN Jesse Pitts is the son of an American cavalry captain and the

French woman he married after World War I. He received a bilingual and bicultural education which he doesn't hesitate to call "the best possible preparation for a sociologist."

His life has been filled with military, business and intellectual adventure.

After earning a French baccalaureate in 1939 and a degree from Harvard (magna cum laude) in 1941, he found himself flying a B-17 in the 8th Air Force and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. Later he flew special missions and was decorated with the Croix de Guerre by Gen. Charles deGaulle.

After the war he married Monique Bonnier, "who, besides being a great cook, has a PhD in medieval literature." The Rochester residents have four children.

AFTER HIS discharge, Pitts and some free French pilot friends from the war attempted to set up a freight airline in sub-Saharan Africa, but "the line never got off the ground." He went into the export-import business to finance his return to graduate school

and in 1957 received his PhD from Harvard.

Pitts was research associate with the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health, taught sociology at Wayne State University until 1964 and then came to organize OU's department of sociology and anthropology.

Other academic duties have included coordinating the Social Justice and Corrections Program, teaching at Harvard's summer school and twice being a senior Fulbright lecturer in Paris—at the Sorbonne and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris.

"I EXPECT many adults, many college graduates," Pitts said of his forthcoming course. "That's one of the side benefits."

He looks to "the confrontation of our learning—what there is of it—and of our experiences, both the experience of the layman and the specialist: lawyer, judge, prosecuting attorney, jurymen, policeman, parole officer and convict."

There is the double-edged side of his nature again—the academic creden-



PROF. JESSE PITTS
A double-edged view

tials balanced by the statement that knowledge is in short supply.

"We don't know really how much crime there is, especially white collar crime."

"We don't know how far punishment deters."

"We know next to nothing about rehabilitation."

"We don't know when legal procedures maintain our freedom and when they become the refuge of the scoundrel to the point where the public loses its faith in the majesty and effectiveness of the law."

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