



A TOP RECORDING STAR, Floyd Cramer, will participate in the big dance party Saturday night under auspices of Betsy Evans, at the Armory. Headlining the event will be Lefty Frixzell and his nationally popular show and dance band.

Weary Jim Clinton Tired Battling State Officials

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP) — Weary of constant battling with the Legislature and heads of state departments, Jim Clinton, the personable and popular state civil service director, is quitting next April.

Clinton's resignation brings a long-smoldering argument to a head, and it also might start a move to put civil service into the Constitution, where the Legislature couldn't touch it.

The civil service law, establishing "for the state a system of personnel administration based on merit principle and scientific methods," was passed by the 1945 Legislature. It governs the appointment, promotion, transfer, lay-off and discipline of state employees.

The law was passed at the request of the Oregon State Employees Association, which now wants the whole set-up investigated to see if Clinton's charges of politics are true.

The law gives the civil service director power over hiring of state employees and lets him fix their pay scales. Some heads of state departments don't like to turn this responsibility over to the civil service department.

All state officials and department heads, as far as we know, believe in the principle of civil service. But most of them have had quarrels with Clinton over hiring and classifying state employees.

There is no way to avoid these arguments. When a state official thinks one of his employees should get better pay or a better job classification than civil service will allow, there's bound to be an argument.

Clinton, who probably will go back into newspaper work after five years with the commission, has these battles almost daily. He doesn't like it because department heads have resisted some of his salary scales and his job classifications.

He also doesn't like to have to go before the Legislature every two years to fight for his recommended pay scales. He's particularly sore at the 1953 Legislature, which turned down his plea for a special fund so he could increase salaries between legislative sessions.

Actually, the Legislature has been pretty good to civil service. A handful of legislators always want to abolish the whole law, but it has survived since 1945 without any substantial changes.

Clinton wants civil service put into the Constitution. He says this would make it impossible for the Legislature to play any politics

with it. Maybe the people would go for the idea by initiative measure, but it's hard to conceive that the Legislature would start a move to make it part of the Constitution.

Ninety per cent of state employees are under civil service. They like it because of the job security, but some of them feel it hinders their promotions.

State officials are reluctant to make public criticism of any aspects of civil service. They fear such criticism might be interpreted as meaning they oppose the whole idea.

A high elected state official, who wouldn't permit his name to be used, said this:

"The civil service system has been of great benefit to the state. It's much better than the spoils system, which we've never had in Oregon. But it has some faults.

"We don't like for young pipsqueaks from the civil service division to come into our department and tell our experienced supervisors how jobs should be evaluated. These young fellows decide the pay scale and qualifications of our employees. The supervisors resent it because they don't have anything to say about it.

"Many of the civil service examinations contain silly questions that don't have any bearing on the job to be done. Some of our employees, who have had many years of experience on a job, have had trouble passing examinations for the job they already are doing.

"We have lost many employees because the civil service commission evaluated jobs too low."

Clinton, pointing out that civil service is aimed at getting state jobs out of politics, doesn't think it has achieved this goal.

His conflicts with the state officials and Legislature have brought much criticism on his head. He says his "public relations were very poor."

Clinton also says his department hasn't been able to do a good job because the Legislature wouldn't give it enough money for operations.

Clinton also said he's resigning because his \$7,560 a year salary is too low. He thinks it should be at least \$2,000 more than that.

20 TRAMPLED

PANAMA, Panama (AP) — Panama's President Jose Antonio Remon came home from Washington Wednesday night to a torchlight welcome so tumultuous that 20 persons were trampled, cut or burned. Two of the injured were hospitalized. Remon was returning from a visit to President Eisenhower.

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