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**FEDERATION GOVERNMENT
 EMPLOYEES ARE TO OBSERVE
 CIVIL SERVICE WEEK SOON**

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Government Employees announced that its observance of Civil Service Week commemorating the 65th anniversary of the signing of the National Civil Service Act will stress the theme that only unionism can make the merit system effective. The National Civil Service Act became law on January 16, 1883, when President Chester A. Arthur signed the measure establishing the merit system in the government service.

Citing the fact that the merit system alone could not attract competent help to enter federal service, the AFGE emphasized the need for organization among government workers to bring about improvements in pay and working conditions.

The AFL union declared that now there is urgent need for salary increases and said it is working for an \$800 blanket raise in base pay for all government employees.

James B. Burns, president of the AFGE, asserted that the good work unions have done in building up the character of the service is being sabotaged by the constant stream of abuse directed at government employees. He said that spokesmen for the private powerful interests, anxious to save tax money and to attack labor standards generally, spur this campaign of abuse even though it may cripple the federal service.

Mr. Burns said the AFGE holds to the belief that government employees are conscientious and efficient to an exceptional degree, and that stigmatizing them as loafers, time-wasters, and tax-eaters is wholly unjustified.

He declared that the American Federation of Labor endorsed this stand at its recent convention when it passed a resolution condemning in forthright terms the unwarranted attacks upon government employees.

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