Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 31.—The foundation of the work of the Federal Trade Commission is to prevent unfair trade practices. Stated in another way, it is to promote common honesty.

With all the inquisitorial powers vested in the commission, with its large staff of investigators constantly in the field, it is greatly to the credit of the business men of the United States that so few delerictions are discovered. No doubt the work of the commission is needed and its existence is a deterrent. Its warning prevents the development of dangerous policies, and usually its suggestions are welcomed.

For these reasons the report that the commission soon will issue a code of business ethics is important. Men like to know in advance what they are expected to do, and they need the assurance that the whole trade is to live by the same high standards. Business and government are so closely related that the atmosphere of one pervades the other. If the standards of trade are low the standards of government will not be high. Both need constant checking to be kept free from questionable practices. The business of the nation will be encouraged and guided by some positively constructive suggestions.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., April 1.—The reported decision from Washington not to call an extra session of the Congress to relieve the farmer and redress unemployment will impress the country as sound. When the last Congress assembled, in the early spring of 1929, the farmer was in a fair condition and unemployment was not a pressing question. The longer the Congress was in session the worse the condition of the farmer became and the larger grew the list of the unemployed. While it is not possible to say that conditions were not improved by legislation, it is apparent they were not cured. A large prospective Treasury deficit has not proven a sovereign remedy.

Business will also gain some courage from the report that by curtailing expenses a further increase of taxes may be avoided. But what is especially cheering is the suggestion that politics is not to agitate the country. Now that the Democrats have taken and published a straw vote, there seems no reason for present disturbance, in either party.

No extra Congress, no extra taxes and no extra politics make the wisest proposals for relief that have yet been announced.

Calvin Coolidge