Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., April 16.—The power and right of the people to choose their own form of government has just been exemplified in Spain. Almost as automatically as a prime minister resigns on the adverse vote of a parliament, the King of Spain has abdicated because an election showed that the people wanted a republic.

It took a great deal of moral courage and a great deal of patriotism for a royal family peaceably to surrender the throne and voluntarily to relinquish an inherited privilege to be the head of the government. Such a conception of the kingship office is definitely modern. No doubt civil war for the present has been averted. If it comes later the King will not be directly responsible for it.

Republics do not come into being ready made. When the holiday celebration is over the people will find that self-government of itself does not solve economic problems. It will be fortunate if the people do not turn on their new public officers as they turned on the King. Meantime nearly every one will admire the King for his self-sacrifice in obeying the popular mandate and will hope that the Spanish people may be given leadership and wisdom commensurate with their grave situation.

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., April 17.—A member of Congress has suggested the possibility of going outside the membership of the House in electing a Speaker. Probably such action would be legal. Knowing the resourcefulness of Representatives, it would be hazardous to say such action has not been before considered. If so, it was rejected.

Every one with any information on national political affairs knows that there are many men in the House qualified to discharge the great office of Speaker. No one without actual experience on the floor and intimate knowledge of the traditions of procedure could hope for success in the chair. Besides, the Speaker has always exercised legislative functions in connection with his office. That seems necessary if he is to have any power beyond that of a moderator. Custom and usage are so important in guiding human action that much would be lost and little could be gained if a Speaker were not also a Representative. But if the House should look with any favor on this suggestion there are two men excellently qualified and available. One is the former Speaker Frederick H. Gillett and the other is Judge Finis J. Garrett, who was floor leader of the Democratic party before he went on the bench.

Calvin Coolidge