Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Aug. 19.—Much attention very properly has been given to the damage from lack of rain. It is extremely serious in amount and human suffering. Every effort must be made for adequate relief.

Bad as this has been, it is non-recurring, beyond human control and involves no moral blame. While this calamity gets great attention, as it should, the report of a reliable authority that the yearly damage from fire is estimated at $7,500,000,000 goes almost unnoticed. This amount is more than one half the entire agricultural production. It is an enormous tax on the resources of the people, being about 8 per cent of the national income. It goes on constantly, ought to be largely preventable and represents a moral delinquency. Of this loss apparently little is chargeable to prohibition. Most of it represents violation of state laws.

This is one of the greatest challenges to good government. But fundamentally it is a question of good citizenship. The executive, national, state and municipal, the police and the courts can help. But the real remedy lies with the people. The laws will be enforced when the people clearly and emphatically indicate that they demand enforcement. But law is not enough. We need a change of heart.

Calvin Coolidge

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Aug. 20.—When sales in so many other directions have been decreasing, an increase of 1½ per cent in the sales of life insurance for the first seven months of the year is wonderfully encouraging. It becomes all the more so when the stupendous amount involved of $7,750,000,000 is considered. That means that the people of the United States, already having over $100,000,000,000 of insurance, are purchasing additional protection of over $1,000,000,000 each month.

The number of policies issued considerably increased, showing that this is not confined to a few of the rich but represents a movement of the people on an unprecedented scale.

This is a factor of the first magnitude and of far-reaching consequences in the advancement of economic democracy. Seventy million people on a sound insured basis has a financial and moral effect that cannot be estimated. It is a demonstration of physical, mental and material health. These people are committed to self-support, self-government, prudent investment and sound business through the increase and equitable distribution of capital. It is a long step toward abolishing poverty.

Calvin Coolidge