Calvin Coolidge Says:

PLYMOUTH, Vt., Aug. 7.—The successful flight of the R-109 again challenges our progress in aviation.

Notwithstanding our original discoveries, our efforts to build military planes during the war were feverish but, owing perhaps to the limited time, were not highly successful. These experiments, however, did produce plant equipment and engineering skill. During mobilization this arm of national defense was somewhat neglected. The aids in the Army and Navy were impatient with the claim of the youth in aviation. The Morrow committee in 1923 laid out a wise plan which quieted the disputes and confusion. Then came the Lindbergh flight, with its great impetus to public interest.

After that date commercial aviation had a wide development. The regular mileage for passenger and mail carrying routes in North and South America expanded tremendously. Much capital and railroad support were secured, but just now progress awaits scientific discovery. A naval office reports that the best engine is made abroad, that is disconcerting. With the resources now available, the science of construction and the art of safe navigation ought to command the most intense research by both private and governmental agencies. We cannot afford any second place.

Calvin Coolidge

Calvin Coolidge Says:

PLYMOUTH, Vt., Aug. 8.—Because of an endless struggle against the elements for the necessities of existence, it is natural to place great emphasis on material prosperity. While that attitude is proper and wise, we still should keep in mind that wealth is not an end but a means. We need it only for the use we can make of it. The real standard of life is not one of quantity but of quality; not of money, but of character.

Some day a sufficient organization, balancing productive output and consumptive need, will give us economic emancipation. But we have not yet perfected the formula. To blame the government or business for all present imperfections is like blaming Washington for neglecting railroads, or Lincoln for ignoring aviation. Meantime we must live and learn. If we have unemployment, it must be remedied; if we have destitution, it must be relieved.

But the great realities do not depend upon prosperity. Getting a living is not the most important part of life. We can be just as loyal to our country, just as devoted to our home, just as faithful to our religion, without great earthly possessions. Even in charity, the widow’s mite still outranks the greatest foundations of the merchant princes.

Calvin Coolidge