Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 13.—Immigration is not a simple question. The entire economic effect of restriction is unknown. Every immigrant is a consumer requiring food, clothing and shelter. To that extent work is made for wage earners. But when many are already idle, an influx of wage earners would aggravate the condition of unemployment.

Every race and creed that has come here in numbers has shown examples of unsurpassed loyalty and devotion to our country. But only by coming slowly, avoiding city colonies and spreading over the land do they arrive in the real United States.

The economic reasons for restricting immigration are not always the most important. We have certain standards of life that we believe are best for us. We do not ask other nations to discard theirs, but we do wish to preserve ours. Standards, government and culture under free institutions are not so much a matter of constitutions and laws as of public opinion, ways of thought and methods of life of the people. We reflect on no one in wanting immigrants who will be assimilated into our ways of thinking and living. Believing we can best serve the world in that way, we restrict immigration.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 15.—Presentation of a Nobel prize to Sinclair Lewis has aroused considerable discussion. Whether his books will survive as literature remains to be seen. Certainly he has been a keen, critical and witty reporter of certain phases of our life. Being critical, he has many readers. He has found favor in some foreign quarters because they like to believe our life is as he represents it. Human nature, not only abroad, but at home tends to caricature everything that is foreign.

No necessity exists for becoming excited. What is of importance is not what some writer represents us to be, but what we really are. We have survived, and profited by, criticism. We have many kinds of people and many phases of life. No writer can teach them all. Judging by our progress and the position we hold, our average is fairly satisfactory. We do not have to obtrude ourselves into the affairs of other people. The world waits in our anteroom for our advice and assistance. The name Mr. Lewis gives us is unimportant. The records of our deeds will surpass all books.

Calvin Coolidge