Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 23.—A sound system of unemployment insurance requires solving many difficult problems. Some employees work from the sense of duty, others for gain, for independence and power, still others to save themselves from want. It has always been supposed that strong motives were necessary to insure continuous effort.

If unemployment insurance were like life and accident insurance the problem would be simple. Each would take what he wanted and pay for it. But it is generally proposed that the employer and the public treasury should pay part of the cost as in worker’s compensation. If when unemployed he is to receive something he did not pay for, no one can say how that would affect the will of the wage earner to hold his place by doing his best. Evidently, the morale would be lowered. Another problem will be the person idle because he does or does not belong to a union.

The duty to relieve unemployment is plain, but not even the unemployed have a right to what they do not earn. Charity is self-existent. Employer and employee are on a business, not a charitable relationship.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 24.—Customs occasionally survive their usefulness, but not for long. When they cease to contribute to human welfare in some way they will be discarded. If an institution prevails over a long series of years, the conclusion is inescapable that it is a benefit to humanity.

We can safely apply this principle to the holiday season. The reason that it continues with undiminished vitality is not only because of its religious significance, but because the human race feels the need of its elevating and soul-satisfying activities. The holiday season is a great moral power in our lives. It makes better men and women in the world.

While it would be destructive to attempt to live in holiday fashion all the time, we always need more of the spirit of good cheer and good will. If we could probe deep enough into the hearts of men we should find that the present difficulties in the world are not material, but spiritual. A surplus of avarice and hate has been produced when the nations needed more forbearance and generosity. The holidays are helping each of us to supply some of this universal demand.

Calvin Coolidge