Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 27.—It does not seem likely that any attempt made in the near future to start another political party could succeed. It is an enormous undertaking that requires the force of some great moral upheaval to make it effective. Without a political leader of national influence no practical result would be secured.

So far as now appears, any new party would have to be radical. Because the Democratic party has had the Solid South without much regard to issues, it has usually tried to appeal to the radicals in the North. If it were to lose this strength it could not win. If there were no choice at the next Presidential election, the decision would go to the House of Representatives, where in 1932 the Republicans will control a majority of the states and so would elect a Republican President. A third party apparently would insure a Republican victory. For that reason any plan to start a new party will not seem practical. But, in addition to this, our people are not third-party minded. They believe all necessary reforms can be secured within the old parties and that they are the best instruments of government.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 29.—We cannot weaken or destroy political parties in the United States without weakening or destroying the rule of the people. The party system has been adopted because of necessity. It has been the most efficient instrument of maintaining free popular government. No other method is effective in putting into operation the theory of representation.

Under absolute monarchy the only way to change the government was by revolution. Gradually parties became a substitute for revolution. They provided an orderly and legal way for the people to express and enforce their will.

Some concerted effort is necessary to conduct a popular election. We require party platforms, expressed or implied. They are the party constitutions. The alternative would be the election of persons without any pledge and free to do what they wished. That would be destructive of representative responsibility and repugnant to a sovereign people.

Without platform pledges and parties to execute them, elections might determine who holds office, but the people would have almost no voice in the government. Those who support party organization and submit to party discipline are adopting the only course yet discovered for orderly government by the people.

Calvin Coolidge