Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 22.—Mostly because of development in some foreign countries we find considerable discussion of whether democracy is not proving a failure. Very great things have been expected of that form of government. The oratory that has been expended in its glorification has not all been found to be justified. No informed student of human affairs ever expected that democracy would be a sovereign remedy for all the ills with which mortals are beset. But the principle of self-government, applied in so far as the development of a people will admit of its application, remains as the best solution of social relations.

In times of national peril, whether military or economic, it has been found necessary to modify the application of the principle in the interest of expedition and solidarity. That has been done in some European countries, but it is a temporary expedient. Self-government is the expression of one of the strongest and most logical aspirations of human nature. There is no other system that is consistent with freedom. In the end it will prevail because it is everlastingly right. The character of our people is the best guarantee of its success in the United States.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 23.—Periodically we are asked to consider what to do about the organized efforts of those hostile to our form of government and system of society. We have about all the law necessary. Under the established inherent right of the people to determine their own institutions, overt acts of hostility are rightly punishable as crimes.

This is a free country. The people have a right to discuss openly changes in government to be made constitutionally. That does not include conspiracy to use force.

The only effective remedy that can ultimately succeed is education. Argument must answer argument. Our people reject the theory that the bread they earn should be eaten by others. They wish to determine who shall eat it. The number unwilling to be convinced that our institutions are sound, that freedom prevails, and that economic conditions are humanly fair, is strikingly small. Right thinking people should be alert, and somewhat organized to meet distortions of facts and illogical arguments. But our institutions are never in so much danger from those who are openly trying to destroy them as from the misguided actions of those who think they are saving society.

Calvin Coolidge