Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 3.—Thousands of our citizens and about one-twenty-fifth of our national wealth are in foreign countries. For many generations international law has recognized that a government has an interest in its citizens and their property and is under a moral duty to protect them wherever they are. Otherwise a country could be seriously crippled by the destruction of property or its citizens themselves when they are abroad. These duties and interests require any government to protect its citizens and their property in the enjoyment of their rights under international law when they are on foreign soil. It is not a voluntary action, but a binding duty imposed by international law and is common to all nations. Sending marine forces for this purpose is not regarded as war.

Our government does not like to do this and avoids it when possible. But if we failed to do it in Central America, European governments would send their forces there to protect their corresponding interests. Our forces are not in any country because we want them there. They are there because of our obligation under international law. The observance and enforcement of such law is the best guaranty of order and peace.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

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Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 5.—Another proposal to be made in the name of relieving unemployment will undoubtedly be an extension of government ownership. Healthy and normal employment consists of serving another for his personal satisfaction or profit. As the government is not personal, its proper business employment would be for those serving for its profit. Public works are on a different footing and need not be considered.

For the wage earners to benefit in time of general depression it would be necessary to assume that government ownership would prevent fluctuations in the business in which it engages. Our largest government business is the postoffice, in which the receipts rise and fall extensively.

If it is assumed that payment of wages will go on without work, that is not employment, but relief. Then no one should work.

The government has never shown much aptitude for real business. The Congress will not permit it to be conducted by a competent executive, but constantly intervenes. The most free, progressive and satisfactory method ever devised for the equitable distribution of property is to permit the people to care for themselves by conducting their own business. They have more wisdom than any government.

CALVIN COOLIDGE