Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 2.—The report that the railroads are to assume a more aggressive attitude in the assertion of their rights and the protection of their property is an encouraging development.

A generation ago the railroads were found to be interfering too much in governmental action which in no way concerned them. They were charged with being in politics when they should have been only in transportation. In reforming themselves they went so far in the opposite direction that their business and, therefore, the public welfare have suffered.

Railroad representation at Washington has been able and wise, but under the present policy not always assertive. The important legislation of ten years ago came from the initiative of a voluntary association of savings banks and insurance companies holding railroad securities. If the railroads can now speak for themselves, it indicates a return of sane public confidence in transportation management which will benefit the country. Holding one-twentieth of the national wealth, the railroads can do more for the welfare of the wage-earner, agriculture and industry than any other single agency. We do not want any return of railroad political activity, but we do need such action as will protect their interests in legislation and regulation.

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 3.—The striking feature of the annual message of the President is its sanity and restraint. It fits the occasion because it includes so little about which there is any reason for partisan controversy. Evidently there is full recognition that under present conditions the country does not need the injection of contentious subjects into legislative consideration so much as it needs an undisturbed opportunity for recuperation.

Of course suggestions are made for such relief for the sufferers from drought and unemployment as can reasonably be expected from the national government through long established policies of public works and seed loans. But the message carefully recognizes that the main work of the short session is to pass the appropriation bills. Both parties agree to that. While there may be slight differences over particular items, there is no reason for political bickering or delay in securing this necessary legislation.

The President has shown the utmost candor and good faith in accepting the offer of the opposition to co-operate in securing the legislation required to conduct the government. If factional disputes are to be sought for they will have to come from some source outside his annual message.

Calvin Coolidge