Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 15.—The contemplated cost for naval expansion under the first year program for bringing our fleet up to the London limitation treaty standard exceeds $126,000,000. This is only a small beginning, but there does not seem to be any escape from paying it.

Grey of Fallodon tells us of the error he believes Germany made before the war when England proposed a naval holiday. He was not in office at the time of the Geneva or the London conference. Had the British government applied his reasoning to the situation existing at those conferences, a very large sum would be saved to taxpayers of both countries. We know that the British navy is not built against us. We know they have no reason to think our navy is built against them or any other nation. We can afford to pay a large price to end competition. That is a consolation. But when European people are in distress it is difficult to understand why they insist on large armaments or why those who are most distressed and seem most secure complain the most because their armaments are limited. They ought to rejoice in a new found freedom.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 16.—It is perfectly apparent that the country does not believe in any kind of dole nor any provision for outdoor relief by the national government. If any member of Congress wishes to propose such a measure, that is his right and it should be considered on its merits. But any attempt to revert to the old rider system or force an extra session unless such a bill is passed cannot be justified and will not meet with public approval.

Years ago the favorite minority device for securing a consideration of national legislation which few wanted but many hesitated to oppose was to move to attach it to an appropriation bill which had to be passed and would carry the rider with it. This led to great abuses. Later the House rules assigned certain days for presenting almost any legislation. A very wholesome rule of Congress was adopted prohibiting legislation being attached to appropriation bills.

This general principle of passing one piece of legislation at a time is most salutary. It prevents crowding through measures that the majority do not favor and forces all bills to stand on their merits.

CALVIN COOLIDGE