Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 20.—The country is not in good condition. Considering our reserve powers it is not as bad as some of those assert who are loudest in proposing fantastic plans to save it. But it is bad enough.

That condition always invites bickerings and recriminations. We all claim the fault wars on the other fellow. Such quarreling only makes matters worse. It is useless to stop now to try to assess blame.

What is needed is tranquility, moderation and constructive action.

When the Congress convened there was much hope that the public statement of several party leaders would prove a statesmanlike basis for such needed cooperation on the part of official Washington. That result is not being secured and the country is suffering. The President cannot abdicate. If there is any cooperation it must be in helping him in his executive capacity to give the country relief and in speedily passing the appropriation bills. No other program can benefit the people. It is no time for politics on the part of any public officials. The country wants action and action without factional opposition. A quiet, candid conference disinterestedly seeking the public welfare would be worth more than many pages of rhetoric.

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 21.—The situation between France and Italy again illustrates how extremely difficult it is for nations to get away from the age-old policy of relying mostly on force for security. Those nations were unable to agree on naval armaments at the London conference. They did arrange a truce in naval building which is reported now ending, with Italy proposing to build gun for gun with France.

About the only progress made is a tacit admission all around that such action is not a good solution of the problems involved. National pride is the main difficulty. Both countries declare their desire for peace, but to each security means more arms in their own hands or the promise of more arms to be furnished by other people.

The Washington and London treaties show these differences can be adjusted. Therein lies the hope. The pressure of high taxes will work on the side of reason. With the protection of the League Covenant, the Locarno agreement and the world peace treaty, the European nations are in a position to make concessions in armaments. They know the attitude of our public opinion on peace and our disinclination to finance war.

Calvin Coolidge