Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 29.—We are very far from solving all our problems of government. We can feel fairly secure about our national government. Many unsound proposals will be made in it, but they will not often prevail. Our state governments are generally satisfactory. Sometimes they are too radical, but they are secure. In the towns, where office is close to the people, little trouble is anticipated.

When we turn to the cities the picture is not so encouraging. In both large and small urban communities the government oftentimes domes so near breaking down that it has to be rescued by state legislation. The fundamental difficulty is almost always in finance or security, high taxes and extravagance bordering on corruption, and in failure of the police to furnish adequate protection against crime.

Most of the trouble could be eliminated by the right type of mayor. Popular election of the chief executive of cities is coming to be discredited in many places. The people at large want and would support good city government, but under the present system they are unable to secure it. The remedy may be found in some indirect method of electing the mayor or closer state supervision of that office.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 30.—The management of Muscle Shoals demonstrates the utter hopelessness of having any considerable business enterprise conducted by the Congress. Development of this plant was commenced under war-time pressure to furnish power to make nitrates for explosives and fertilizers. More recent discoveries and processes render it, if not obsolete, at least unnecessary for that purpose. Other domestic sources of supply make it a superfluous.

Like other war property, this plant should have been liquidated years ago. But in spite of committee, commission and executive recommendation, politics has always intervened. Rivalry among power, industrial and agricultural interests has prevented any decisive action. Nearly all concerned apparently have wanted to get some special advantage out of the government. That will always be the case with any business with which the government is involved or any property the government owns. Meantime, many useful projects on the Tennessee River are held in abeyance.

For the United States to go into the electrical business would be a gross misuse of its powers and involve it in all kinds of political abuses. The thing to do with Muscle Shoals is to dispose of it to private interests, with suitable restrictions.

Calvin Coolidge