Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Jan. 31.—The episode involving General Butler illustrates one of the peculiarities of our military organization. It is very difficult to regulate the speech of our officers. The public usually assumes that the right of free speech is universal and without control. So such breaches of discipline are usually ignored. But such a freedom does not exist in the case of officers, since they are voluntarily in a service where the right to talk is necessarily limited.

The ease with which gossip concerning persons in important public positions finds credence is also remarkable. The most trivial incident is passed around and magnified until it becomes a serious accusation. The victims are usually without remedy. When anything of that kind occurs with reference to the officers of a foreign government, it is especially reprehensible, because it would be none of our concern even if it were true and because its repetition is very injurious to the friendly relations of the innocent people of the two countries. There are good things enough in the world and good traits enough in all persons to supply about all the topics needed for discussion. International good will should not be imperiled by inconsiderate statements from any source.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 2.—The visit of Prime Minister Bennett of the Dominion of Canada to Washington emphasizes the friendly relations of two American nations. He reported to the press that he had no important business to transact with our government. There are no serious disputes between the two countries. Such diplomatic exchanges as are necessary are in the nature of communications between merchants who buy from and sell to each other. The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence are common natural resources from which mutual advantages will be secured by future development. The only indication of a frontier of three thousand miles between the United States and Canada is the places where exports and imports are supervised. Yet we are two separate people with a strong and distinct national spirit.

In recent years many delegations have come from foreign countries to study our industrial development. It might be profitable for an international delegation to study the manner in which two great and competing countries in North America maintain friendly relations without any fortifications or any armed forces at their borders. If such a secret could be discovered and applied it would be the greatest blessing that could be secured by many foreign people.

CALVIN COOLIDGE