Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 10.—It is always easy to become impatient with the prolonged debates of the Senate. The people tolerate talk but they admire action. Nevertheless it would be dangerous for the Senate further to impair its character as a deliberative body. A good measure can stand discussion. A bad bill ought to be delayed. To give a check upon the popular House of Representatives the Constitution established the Senate to be more permanent, independent and conservative. The House was to protect the people against oppression. The Senate was to protect the people against disorder.

While the nature of the Senate has been changed by the direct election of its members, it has still remained a citadel of liberty because it has always contained a body of strong men who were able and willing to expose dangerous measures by adequate debate. Their arguments on the floor go to the country through the press. If they have real substance the people respond. Of course the power to debate can be abused. But it is safer to employ those who abuse power in debating than in voting. Open debate is the only shield against the irretrievable action of a rash majority.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NEW YORK, March 11.—We are besought by Europeans to define our attitude toward any blockade by the League of Nations against one of its recalcitrant members. As our rights of trade are already substantially defined by the usages of international law, the request is virtually that we signify that foreign powers be given the privilege to abrogate and violate our rights. It is difficult to see why such authority should be granted even if our government had the power.

In so far as a blockade is an act of war, we could only participate in it through a declaration of the Congress. To observe a blockade amounts to about the same thing and undoubtedly would be considered unfriendly, if not hostile. We remember that whenever we have placed an embargo on arms, the country affected has usually been able to purchase a supply in Europe.

It would be more practical to await the event. Our position can then be ascertained. It will be on the side of peace and fair dealing. We already restrict the sale of arms. Having made the treaty outlawing war, we would not look with complacency on another nation proposing to violate it.

CALVIN COOLIDGE