Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 28.—The power of the President to veto legislation is one of the most important checks of our constitutional system. It would be difficult to demonstrate that any refusal to approve an act of the Congress has caused great harm, while it is easy to discover vetoes that have been of great benefit to the country. Legislators will often approve a bill which an individual would reject, because functioning through mass action divides and dilutes their responsibility. Moreover, the President represents all the people, while a Senator or a Representative usually considers only his constituents.

Generally, the power has been used sparingly. Eight Presidents never resorted to it. Washington returned but two bills, Lincoln but three. Cleveland holds the high record, having disapproved 343 measures.

The veto power is not a method by which the judgment of one man is to be used to override the judgment of the Congress. It is to provide opportunity to reconsider a doubtful measure. The knowledge that legislation will be reviewed, that it may be disapproved in a public statement by the President has a distinctly deterrent and sobering effect. The veto power safeguards the rights of all the people.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 2.—In that systematic and organized way which is their national characteristic a considerable body of German writers have made a sympathetic response to the men of letters in France who had appealed to them to promote a better understanding between the two countries.

This action might well be supplemented by all the agencies of the press and extended to the whole world. Of course there is room for argument as to whether criticism of foreign nations produces dislike of them or whether it merely caters to a dislike already existing. Probably both elements are present. Yet if such criticism could be avoided the result certainly would be beneficial.

In our own case the State Department always tries to be fair to foreign countries. If our domestic press attacks the attitude of our government it greatly encourages foreign antagonism to our country. If it attacks the foreign attitude it increases our antagonism to foreign countries. Governments are almost always sincerely attempting to conduct themselves so that their people can maintain friendly intercourse with each other. All nations want good will, security and peaceful commerce. They are rivals mainly in world service. In these efforts they ought to have the support of the public press.

Calvin Coolidge