Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 24.—The direct practical interest of the United States in the customs union of Austria and Germany cannot be large. Our exports to Austria are small and her products cannot interfere in an important way with our exports to Germany. Probably our legal interest is about the same as that of the Allied powers, for our treaty of peace provided we should have the same rights and privileges as if we had ratified the Versailles Treaty.

It is not so easy to assess our indirect interest. Whatever disturbs the political tranquillity of Europe is injurious on this side of the Atlantic. It is not lightly to be assumed that Germany and Austria are putting a chip on their shoulders. They are entitled to the presumption of good faith. They are justified in taking any legal action to protect their joint economic interests. It is generally agreed by experts that European tariff barriers have reached the destructive point. But action in relation to them should be taken in a way not to alarm the sensibilities of others. Perhaps, before the final consummation of the union, suitable declarations will be made and guaranties given which will allay the fear that more is intended than the agreement discloses.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 25.—Another epic in characteristic of our country has just been published in the will of the late Ella Wendel. She has left a fortune estimated at well over seventy-five millions of dollars almost entirely to charity. It took three generations of thrift, industry and intelligence to accumulate this property. Now it is to be distributed with the sole purpose of attempting to benefit the public. It goes to the people.

Under the laws and customs of the United States there is little cause to fear the power of wealth. Occasionally there are those who abuse it, chiefly to their own harm. It is difficult to find a great fortune that has been preserved through three generations. Not having to support a titled class, our wealth becomes distributed by inheritance and bequest.

Accumulated wealth is one of the foundations of our progress. Distributed per capita, it would be ineffective; in accumulation, it supports our industries, raises the standard of living and endows educational, religious and charitable institutions. Almost all the time we find it genuinely employed in the service of the people. The Wendel will only disclose in an emphatic way what is constantly being done in our country.

CALVIN COOLIDGE