Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 21.—One of the most difficult questions pressing urgently for decision by government and business is railroad rates. Almost daily some one in Washington is urging the maintenance of the present wage scale. But wages cannot be paid without ready money. The public attitude has not encouraged the railroads to accumulate a surplus even if possible. They have to pay wages and taxes out of current earnings. They claim nearly all the increased rates allowed about ten years ago have been withdrawn by subsequent orders of the government. Mean time wage scales were increased.

Business would consider an increase in railroad rates as a serious burden at this time. If it resulted in increased employment on the railroads there might be large compensations and if it created confidence and revived trade, approval would be universal, but these reactions are problematical. No one can long expect railroad service that is not paid for or continuation of wages that do not come out of income. Those in authority who are asking for the maintenance of wages will have to give some thought to helping to provide the income for their payment. The decision of the government on this question is a serious responsibility.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 22.—One of the wise men of our country told us that experience is a hard school, but some can learn from no other. In 1914 some of the nations concluded they would no longer bear what they thought were the threats and arrogance of their neighbors. Others conceived there was a short way through war to glory, aggrandizement and world power. Out of four years' mutual suffering people came to a better political understanding of international relations. They learned the wisdom of patience and forbearance. The political world is on a firmer foundation.

In the short era which culminated in 1929 the economic world became convinced that there was a short way to riches and power through expansion, inflation and speculation. A season of great avarice and extravagance brought the inevitable reaction of loss and suffering. Just as the political situation had to be liquidated, so the financial situation had to be liquidated. We may well be thankful it is not worse. Out of our chastening we shall emerge with less speculative and more balanced production. Economic life will be more logical and better controlled. The financial world will be on a firmer foundation.

CALVIN COOLIDGE