Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 5.—Reports that the student body of some educational institution has proposed to take over the authority vested by law in the board of trustees and the faculty are no longer novel, but they are none the less disquieting.

Charitable and devout persons have made gifts to provide our youth with an opportunity for education. The government has contributed taxes. Parents send their children there often at considerable sacrifice. Some of our best men and women give their services as trustees. The result is a great charity for the benefit of young people. The object is mental and moral discipline through obedience to rules as well as application to study. The whole plan involves submission by the students to duly constituted authority.

Yet every little while these opportunities are ignored and these principles are rejected by a student revolt. The seat of the trouble is back in the home. Real reverence and obedience have not been sufficiently taught there. But institutions of learning cannot for that reason disregard their duty. If they meet their obligations they must train their students to realize that liberty comes only through obedience to law and devotion to truth. To teach that lesson is worth great sacrifice.

Calvin Coolidge

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 6.—Without considering at all the financial or moral obligation of foreign governments to pay their debts to our government or the obligation of our government to collect them, it is interesting to see what is involved in the argument that the debts should be canceled to increase trade. Fundamentally this means the most enormous subsidy to foreign commerce that was ever proposed. This has a strange sound in the vocabulary of those who advocate that trade should be free and unrestricted. We would be involved in subsidizing the trade of foreign people out of money collected from our own people.

If this policy is to be adopted, if our taxpayers are to begin paying the taxes of foreign people supposedly in order to increase their power to trade with us, there is no reason to limit the process to those who happen to owe our government. The principle would require a broader application. It would be logical to select all countries where an argument could be made that if our Treasury would bear a part of their tax burden they might enlarge their commerce with us. If we adopted this principle logically we should open our Treasury to all the world.

Calvin Coolidge