Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Oct. 16.—We would save ourselves from a great deal of discouragement and impatience if we had a better historical perspective. As a part of the celebration of the tercentenary in Massachusetts, much has been published in word and picture to show how people lived in the early days of our country. At Salem a small village has been constructed reproducing the ancient habitations and handwork industries of about three hundred years ago. They show that the bare necessities of existence were about all that the most unremitting toil, hardship and exposure could produce. All that the rich then could afford would be scorned by the wage earners of the present day.

The conditions there exhibited were the usual course of life on this continent until well into the nineteenth century. Now all is changed. Comparatively, we have affluence and luxury on every hand. Free of charge our people have schools, roads, libraries and sanitation; and for a small charge water, lights, transportation and amusements.

More important still, our progress seems cumulative. The last twenty-five years greatly surpasses every other like period. It would be wholesome to think more on these things. It would reduce complaint and increase contentment.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Oct. 17.—If some current statements are to be taken seriously we are expecting too much from free government. Notwithstanding the excellent practice of voting our ideals, nevertheless we have a representative government that must necessarily be about what we ourselves are. We demand entire freedom of action and then expect the government in some miraculous way to save us from the consequences of our own acts. We want the right to run our own business, fix our own wages and prices, and spend our own money, but if depression and unemployment result we look to government for a remedy.

We insist on producing a farm surplus, but think the government should find a profitable market for it. We overindulge in speculation, but ask the government to prevent panics. Now the only way to hold the government entirely responsible for conditions is to give up our liberty for a dictatorship. If we continue the more reasonable practice of managing our own affairs we must bear the burden of our own mistakes. A free people cannot shift their responsibility for them to the government. Self-government means self-reliance.

Calvin Coolidge