Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Oct. 28.—When we carefully examine it the wonder grows that, under the political practice we have developed, our government is so good. We do not give enough attention to nominations nor elections. We let our choice turn on some immaterial personal characteristic that has nothing to do with the qualifications for the office. We heap so much abuse on public servants that many with every capacity for office will not subject themselves to the ordeal. Conspicuous success in private life is often considered a bar to public recognition. In response to some whom we support candidates who can only succeed in office by disregarding the reason for which they were elected.

All of these practices put our government at a disadvantage. We are only saved from a complete disaster because the average person rises somewhat to responsibility. With our increasingly intricate system of government and business we must give more attention to the capacity of candidates. Their decisions affect our whole national life. Public service is a most exacting profession. Honest and good intentions are almost useless unless they are supplemented by ability. When we vote for anything but the best we cheat ourselves, our families and our country.

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Oct. 29.—It is often said that the world belongs to youth. They may not hold legal title to it at the moment, but what the world will be in the future depends on what they do today. They are the heirs apparent with power.

The influence they wield is because they are naturally idealists. The disappointments and failures of life have not come into their experience. They are moved more by faith than by caution. It is for that reason that they hold the keys to future progress.

Next Tuesday about a million of our youth will have the opportunity to cast their first vote. There are enough of them to decide the election in nearly every political unit. It is necessary for our political and social progress that they should run true to form and vote their ideals.

If we are to have any improvement, if public office is to be any more mindful of public welfare, if our national life is to be any purer, if our standards are to be any higher, it will be because the youth of the country make them so. The progress we can make has no limit if our youth will vote their faith.

Calvin Coolidge