Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Sept. 9.—A distinct cleavage exists between the United States and the League of Nations on national defense. Under the League plan each member has responsibilities for the defense of other members. By that arrangement it would seem that as each country is entitled to help from all the others every one would feel that there was no need for large armaments. Curiously, it is not working that way. Each nation, instead of relying on the help of others, magnifies its obligations to help others and claims it needs large armaments. Instead of increased security each anticipates increased peril. When the United States was expected to join the League our government was proposing a standing army of about 300,000. This theory arms for security.

The theory of the United States is for each nation to defend itself, cultivate friendly relations with others and reduce armaments so that they are not considered a menace anywhere. This theory disarms for security.

This difference in theory has made the United States a leader in limitation of armaments while it has prevented the League from meeting the obligation under the Versailles Treaty to disarm. The League, founded in terms of peace, constantly thinks in terms of war.

Calvin Coolidge

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Sept. 10.—The report that the Tariff Commission is about to start investigations of a wide variety of commodities will not give much encouragement to business.

The low tariff advocates first secured the flexible provisions of the law. When careful research under it showed rates were too low, with the exception of some agricultural schedules, flexibility was abandoned by its former sponsors. New investigations would probably reveal about the same conditions.

While we talk of a scientific tariff to balance the difference in cost of production at home and abroad, conditions change so fast that rates can be only approximate. We do not wish to exclude foreign goods but to give our people only a fair chance in their own markets under our scale of wages and standards of living.

A very bad tariff would be better than constant agitation, uncertainty, foreign animosity and change. We have recently had well over a year of tariff discussion with resulting injury to business. Hope for a purely scientific tariff will prove a delusion. Any prolonged investigations, covering many schedules for the purpose of rewriting the law, will do more harm than good. Many will be injured while none will be satisfied. And the country will not be benefited.

Calvin Coolidge