

Many Varying Views Expressed As President Takes Nation By Surprise

COOLIDGE'S ACTION SURPRISES WALL ST.

Mitchell Asks "What Is Choice Of People?" In Connection With Such Determination.

NEWS IN AFTER MARKET

Bankers And Brokers Had Not Expected Political Factors To Enter Situation So Early.

New York, Aug. 2 (P).—President

He rose quickly even before all had entered, took his cigar from his mouth and, looking toward the back of the room, said: "Is everyone here now?"

The last man fled into the room and the group moved close to Mr. Coolidge's desk. Except for the news writers, there were present only the members of the President's personal staff and Senator Capper, of Kansas, himself a publisher.

Mr. Coolidge walked to the end of his desk, holding a pile of little slips of folded white paper.

"Will you please file past me," he said, "I have a little statement for you."

Each Man Given Slip.

With rapidity the line formed and as each man stepped by the President he was handed one of the slips. No one waited until all had been given out, but no sooner had each man received his slip than he opened it, to be taken so completely by surprise that only a blank look of amazement was discernible to the men who were standing in line.

Finally, when the slips had been given out and for a moment there was a dead pause. Some folded their slips mechanically, looked around and then reopened them to read again for fear their eyes had deceived them.

Details To Comment.

"I do not choose to run for President in 1928," he read, standing out boldly in black typewritten words on thin white paper. Then some one to the rear of the room recovered from his astonishment to ask in a low voice, but one which seemed to be a shout:

"Does the President care to comment further?"

Mr. Coolidge promptly answered "No." And the wild rush for the door commenced. Everyone forgot the President and remembered only that he carried in his hand an announcement of the first importance to every newspaper in the country.

Turns Back To Desk.

Only one or two not pressed for time loitered, wondering if that was really all there was to be to it.

Mr. Coolidge turned back to his desk, lowering his shoulders and then with a moment's thought called for his overcoat and hat. A broad smile on his face, he joined Senator Capper and the two walked out to an automobile for the trip to the summer White House.

The usual crowd of tourists stood waiting with feelings no one knows. A moment before they had witnessed twenty-five newspaper men dash out of the building as if it might be on fire and they probably were in that state when one is so surprised that he cannot move or ask questions.

Appears Greatly Amused.

Soon, however, the President and Senator Capper came out, Mr. Coolidge still smiling broadly and as he stepped into his automobile and sank back into the cushions he continued to be greatly amused, apparently over the consternation he had caused among his newspaper friends.

Such was the dramatic fashion, even spectacular by contrast with the simple manner by which it was disclosed, that an outstanding story was given to the country.

Intentions Believed Unknown.

Barring confidences, which seem unlikely, the President's intentions were unknown to all up to noon today except himself and his confidential stenographer, Erwin Geiser. The latter was called into Mr. Coolidge's room shortly before 12 o'clock and instructed to type the message, which Mr. Coolidge dictated, on the sufficient number of slips.

Here, the President had under consideration the fact that his "dry" day doublets will not be disclosed unless he chooses to discuss the incident with his friends. That he waited purposefully until today seems logical, as he has learned toward sentiment before.

Appeared In Genial Mood.

Rarely has the President been in a more genial mood than he was today. It was recalled, before his term statement shunted all other things aside, that the four years in the Presidency which went into history today were felt by Mr. Coolidge to have been singed out by peace with the nations of the world and tranquility at home.

It was said that the President recalled no instance of financial depression and that the years had been marked with good relations between employer and employee, large reductions in the national debt and considerable cuts in Federal taxation.

He felt that although some sections of the country are having their difficulties, generally there is a satisfactory degree of prosperity.

Mrs. Coolidge Not A Factor.

Whether Mrs. Coolidge had been previously advised of the President's statement is unknown, but it is safe to say that her wishes had nothing to do with it.

And it seems further assured that she will never talk about it because it always has been her policy to remain in the background and not to engage in political discussions of any kind.

While it is known that Mrs. Coolidge has always been strongly desirous of another full term in the White House, it is also true that she has counseled him on various public relations as to the country's public relations are concerned. She has always taken the viewpoint that while Mr. Coolidge is President, he has too many public problems to engage him without adding to their weight by raising questions as to their own personal affairs.

Hilles Regards Decision As Without Reservation

New York, Aug. 2 (P).—A belief that

President Coolidge's announcement to day that he would not be a candidate in the next presidential election was made "without reservation," was expressed tonight by Charles D. Hilles, vice-chairman of the Republican National Committee.

"The President's laconic statement was entirely unexpected, and I regret his action," Hilles said. "He is a singularly self-reliant man. I believe he took his own counsel until the decision was announced. He is a man of candor and sincerity, and I think he made the statement without reservation, except that if an emergency should confront the country in 1928, and it should clearly be a duty to run, he will be forced to do so. Otherwise I think he intends this to be final."

"He has had the satisfaction of knowing that he would have been re-nominated by an overwhelming majority."

Editorial Comments On President Coolidge's Words In Connection With Next Year's Campaign

Editorial comment from some of the leading newspapers on President Coolidge's announcement that he does not choose to run for President in 1928 follows:

HERALD TRIBUNE, New York, *Independent Republican*:

President Coolidge started the country today by giving out this statement: "I do not choose to run for President in 1928."

It is face it is enigmatic and subject to various interpretations and highly stimulative of political discussion. It is equally enigmatic in a third term, to a second elective term or to the tradition which was recently invoked by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler and others as limiting Presidential service, successive or otherwise. It seems to be an expression of personal feeling with regard to a situation in which the President could hardly escape the appearance of being actively a candidate to succeed himself.

It may be assumed that he does not desire to be considered a candidate in any such sense. . . . To me it would be a sacrifice to run for another term. But what is the choice of the people? I regard it as a national politics would become a market factor until around the end of the year. The impression on the whole has been that Mr. Coolidge would again be a candidate.

Mitchell Comments. C. E. Mitchell, president of the National City Bank, said in a signed statement:

"Throughout his career President Coolidge has proved himself the servant of the people; he has sensed their will and has obeyed it. His personal choice, according to his statement, is not to run for another term. But what is the choice of the people? I regard it as a national politics would become a market factor until around the end of the year. The impression on the whole has been that Mr. Coolidge would again be a candidate.

Times, New York, Independent Democratic.

"Until yesterday on one was in a position to quote any utterance whatever by President Coolidge about a third term—or even a 'second elective term,' as his Republican supporters prefer to call it. Now he is seeking another nomination. But the Republican party and the country may also have their preferences."

COURIER JOURNAL, Louisville, *Independent*:

"I do not choose to run for President in 1928" carries no conviction that he may not later on choose to run, or that he would not run if a majority of the Republican national convention should insist that he run.

As Is It is the *Citizen Journal* accepts the President's words at their face value. It believes that it is his present will not to run. Whether he may change that will within the next twelve months is another question—a problem to which his brief announcement offers no solution.

FREE PRESS, Detroit, *Independent Republican*:

The permanent reaction by the vast majority of people to what appears to have been a long and carefully considered decision is to be a feeling of very deep regret, mixed with a sensation of genuine anxiety concerning the future of the Government and the country. The administration of President Coolidge has been accepted at their face value, but only will be able to test the sincerity of President Coolidge's "I do not choose."

REGISTER, Des Moines, *Independent Republican*:

There is an open door in the statement, two of them, in fact. One is with reference to 1928. The other is with reference to 1932, when he is likely to be a candidate again.

Times, New York, Independent Democratic.

"Until yesterday on one was in a position to quote any utterance whatever by President Coolidge about a third term—or even a 'second elective term,' as his Republican supporters prefer to call it. Now he is seeking another nomination. But the Republican party and the country may also have their preferences."

COURIER JOURNAL, Louisville, *Independent*:

"I do not choose to run for President in 1928" carries no conviction that he may not later on choose to run, or that he would not run if a majority of the Republican national convention should insist that he run.

As Is It is the *Citizen Journal* accepts the President's words at their face value. It believes that it is his present will not to run. Whether he may change that will within the next twelve months is another question—a problem to which his brief announcement offers no solution.

CAPITAL, Topeka, Kan., *Republican*:

It was not the third term that influenced the President, nor the fear of defeat at the polls, for with the present divided and disrupted condition of the Democratic party, the President knows he could be re-elected if he chose to run. There is more than a possibility of his being re-elected.

REGISTER, Des Moines, *Independent Republican*:

There is an open door in the statement, two of them, in fact. One is with reference to 1928. The other is with reference to 1932, when he is likely to be a candidate again.

Times, New York, Independent Democratic.

"Until yesterday on one was in a position to quote any utterance whatever by President Coolidge about a third term—or even a 'second elective term,' as his Republican supporters prefer to call it. Now he is seeking another nomination. But the Republican party and the country may also have their preferences."

WORLD, New York, Independent Democratic.

"This is unquestionably a great victory for Western agriculture. If President Coolidge does not choose to run for reelection, it is certainly for good reason, and the best of reasons for this decision can be found in the conflict which he invited with agriculture in the veto of the McNary-Haugen bill last winter."

PROGRESSIVE JOURNAL, Philadelphia, *Independent Republican*:

"This is unquestionably a great victory for Western agriculture. If President Coolidge does not choose to run for reelection, it is certainly for good reason, and the best of reasons for this decision can be found in the conflict which he invited with agriculture in the veto of the McNary-Haugen bill last winter."

INQUIRER, Philadelphia, *Independent Republican*:

Calvin Coolidge makes it known that he does not choose to run again. His decision is the result of a hasty decision to be renominated.

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, *Independent Democrat*:

Mr. Coolidge, we believe, has acted wisely if he really intends to be taken seriously. It is the one when history repeats itself, and the country is faced with another administration.

ADVERTISER, Montgomery, Ala., *Democratic*:

It is a meaningless statement, in so far as it is intended to throw light on the question of the President's potential candidacy. He does not say he will not run. He says he will not "choose" to run. What he means apparently is that the public—thus to say, the Republican party—must decide the question.

NEWS-HERALD, Omaha, *Independent Republican*:

Suppose the convention should nominate him notwithstanding, would he then refuse the nomination? This question will be asked, of course, but he would not say he has much reason to do so. The President proposes not to be a candidate and does not say he will not be nominated.

POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, *Independent*:

The fact remains that the Republican party wants Mr. Coolidge for its candidate and will doubtless insist on his acceptance of the nomination. Despite his announcement, he will steadily more apparent that he will have to listen to the demands of his party.

POST, Washington, *Independent*:

Even the most ardent critics of Mr. Coolidge have never charged him with duplicity. He has been frank and straightforward, and it is certain that he has given his real wishes in this statement, not only his real wishes, but his determination as well.

NEWS, Denver, *Independent*:

The news tomorrow in an editorial questions the word "choose" in the Coolidge announcement and suggests that it may be used later as a way out. It holds that he could have been more emphatic if he had cared to burn his bridges behind him. Then it proceeds:

But is it safe to state that he will not be a candidate of the party convention? That he announced his desire to serve in the national convention, he will not permit the use of his name to break it? That he will leave the field to others?

STAR, Indianapolis, *Independent Republican*:

He (Mr. Coolidge) does not say he

Skeptical View Taken In Capital

Many Washington Politicians Regard Coolidge Statement As Having Two Interpretations.

AIDES PUT IN DILEMMA

Critics Say President Could Have Taken Stand Which Would Not Have Been Equivocal.

(Continued from Page 1.)

will not run, nor does it seem likely that a man who has taken the high office as seriously as he has, who has looked upon the position as a solemn trust, would do so for self-aggrandizement. It will be a candidate if there is widespread sentiment in favor of his nomination next year. His announcement, in effect, seems to be aimed to place himself on a par with any party who has been nominated and to leave the question of making a selection up to the members of his party.

OKLAHOMA, Oklahoma City, *Democrat*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

STAR, Kansas City, *Independent*:

The definite words of Theodore Roosevelt's statement of 1904, "under no consideration will I run for President again," have been repeated by the President's statement. A reasonable interpretation is that Mr. Coolidge has no desire to be a candidate for another term. He would not seek the nomination. It, notwithstanding the attitude on his part, the party would insist that he be once more the leader, he does not say that he would succeed himself.

seeking to serve ten years in the White House.

If the Coolidge statement turns out to be a positive declaration to allow his name to go before the Republican convention, it can now be alleged, even his friends admit, that he was at least dubious if he could overcome the third term project. These friends wish that he had waited until much nearer the convention season to make statement whatever.

But notwithstanding what has been said, many of the Pres-

ident's more faithful followers take the view expressed by Senator Smoot today—that if the Republican National Convention deliberately or by stampede should renominate Mr. Coolidge, next June he will