

In a speech he delivered at William and Mary College in 1926, President Calvin Coolidge declared,

No method of procedure has ever been devised by which liberty could be divorced from local self-government. No plan of centralization has ever been adopted which did not result in bureaucracy, tyranny, inflexibility, reaction, and decline. Of all forms of government, those administered by bureaus are about the least satisfactory to an enlightened and progressive people. Being irresponsible they become autocratic, and being autocratic they resist all development. Unless bureaucracy is constantly resisted it breaks down representative government and overwhelms democracy. It is the one element in our institutions that sets up the pretense of having authority over everybody and being responsible to nobody.



Calvin Coolidge in 1908

In other words, plans of centralization and tyrannies are found in the same places. Tyrannies become laws unto themselves because they refuse to recognize God's law — and it is no coincidence that they also curtail and even totally squash personal freedom. People — human beings who are made in God's image — reflect His image when they can act freely within the boundaries of God's laws.