

# Coolidge Club #32

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## News from the Notch

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## Budget Skunks and Julie Andrews

You're probably wondering what skunks and Julie Andrews have to do with President Calvin Coolidge. For those of you who were able to attend our conference on Capitol Hill entitled "**The Virtuous Obsession: How Better Budget Law is Key to Meeting our Nation's Fiscal Challenges,**" you'll remember the stuffed toy skunk former Congressional Budget Office Director June O'Neill brought as a prop. This skunk was given to Dr. O'Neill when she became CBO director in 1995 by her immediate predecessor, Robert Reischauer. The skunk was to serve as a constant reminder that

the CBO's role was to provide, as far as possible, an accurate picture of the fiscal impact of proposed legislation, no matter the consequences for the two major parties.

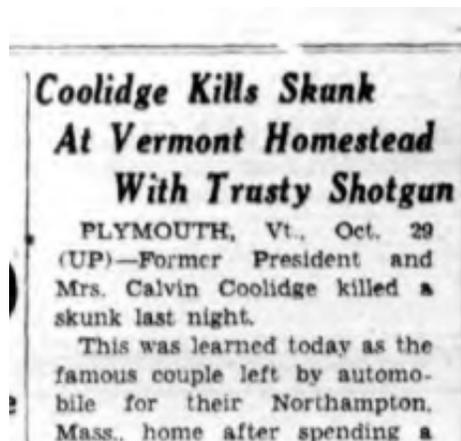
Now you're likely asking yourself what in the world Julie Andrews has to do with the Federal budget process. Well, in his keynote address, honorary co-host Senator Jeff Sessions, the presumptive new chairman of the Senate Budget Committee in the 114th Congress, referred to the famed British actress as one of his favorite economists. Why? A line from the famous Andrews film *The Sound of Music*: "Nothing comes from nothing, nothing ever could." That is to say, when it comes to budgeting, we must be sure to not spend money we don't have.

Sen. Sessions praised President Coolidge many times in his keynote speech, saying "The legacy of President Calvin Coolidge points the way forward," and quoting Coolidge at length in regard to Coolidge's belief that budgeting is the noblest of virtues. Sen. Sessions sounded much like Coolidge in other areas of his speech as well, saying a top goal for him "is to impose financial discipline on every single agency of this government," and stressing, "we have to be consistent about it."

Our conference [featured](#) a vast array of impressive bipartisan experts on the budget process. They provided tremendous insight into the nuances and history of the Federal budget process. They also offered a number of innovative solutions to make the process work better for the American people and ultimately put our country on a more sound fiscal trajectory, in line with the spirit of President Calvin Coolidge.

Be sure to check out a few of the news clippings related to the Budget Conference!

- [Sessions Lays Out Financial Agenda for New GOP Majority in Address to Coolidge Foundation Budget Conference](#)
- [Sessions: GOP Congress needs "financial discipline"](#)
- [Sessions Rejects Style of Overreach and Activism on Federal Budget](#)
- [Quoting Julie Andrews, Sessions vows hard line on budget](#)



fifteen-week vacation in this town where Mr. Coolidge was born.

While Mrs. Coolidge held a flashlight on the polecat, hovering in the distant darkness, the former President raised his double-barrelled shotgun and fired, killing the skunk.

Mr. and Mrs. Coolidge were spending the evening in the old Coolidge homestead. Mrs. Coolidge's pet chow, Tim, sounded the alarm but wisely kept his distance.

## Scenes from our D.C. Budget Conference



Former CBO Director **Robert Reischauer** holds the toy skunk he gave to **Dr. June O'Neill** in 1995 when she succeeded him as CBO Director.



**Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama**, presumptive chairman of the Senate Budget Committee in the 114th Congress, gives a keynote address at our budget conference.



**Former House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer of Texas** makes the sign for the University of Texas Longhorns with a group of **Archer**

**Scholars from UT Austin** who came to D.C. for the budget conference.

**Former Comptroller General of the United States David Walker** gave a rousing speech during the conference.





**Former Houston Mayor Bill White** spoke during the second session of the conference: "What's Wrong with the Current Federal Budget System." Read more about his new book *America's Fiscal Constitution* [here](#).



Former CBO Director **Dr. June O'Neill** of the the Zicklin School of Business at the City University of New York is photographed holding her toy skunk as Foundation Chairman **Amity Shlaes** beams with pride at the success of our budget conference.

You can view the entire photo album from the conference over on our [Flickr page!](#)



**Holiday**  
**OPEN HOUSE** AT THE  
President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site

SATURDAY  
**DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm 3780  
Plymouth Notch, VT Rte 100 N

**Free Admission** to the historic village  
**Chocolate Making & Sampling**  
with The Chocolatorium  
**Cheese Making & Wine Tasting**  
at the Plymouth Cheese Factory  
**Music** by organist Steve Morse  
**Wreath Making** 🌿 **Children's Activities**  
**Holiday shopping** at the museum stores  
**Lunch** at the Wilder House Restaurant  
**Sleigh Rides** with Fred DePaul  
**Traditional Craft Demonstrations**  
**Special Cancellation** at the historic  
Plymouth Post Office & more!

FEATURING  
**Baking**  
**Demonstration**  
& **Book Signing**  
with Gesine  
Bullock-Prado

FOR MORE INFO  
**CALL**  
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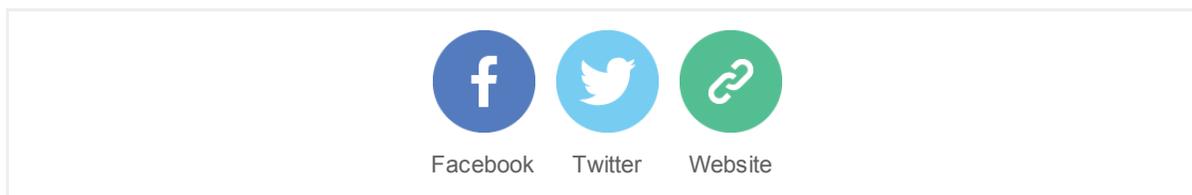
 **VERMONT**  
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[www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov](http://www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov)



## Calendar Reminders

Here's a list of date reminders for your calendar:

- **December 6: Holiday Open House.** Plymouth Notch. Hosted by Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.



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