Continental Casualty Co. v. United States,
113 F.2d 284, 286 (5th Cir. 1940):
"Public officers are merely the agents of the
public, whose powers and authority are
defined and limited by law. Any act without
the scope of the authority so defined does not
bind the principal, and all persons dealing
with such agents are charged with
knowledge of the extent of their authority,"
(Emphasis added.)