

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.)

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