

Important Court Rulings

Federal Trade Commission v. Raladam Co., 283 U.S. 643, 51 S.Ct. 587 (1931):

"Official powers cannot be extended beyond the terms and necessary implications of the grant. If broader powers be desirable, they must be conferred by Congress. They cannot be merely assumed by administrative officers; nor can they be created by the courts in the proper exercise of their judicial functions," 283 U.S., at 649.

State ex rel McConnell v. First State Bank, 22 Tenn. App. 577, 124 S.W.2d 726, 733 (1938):
Bank insolvency case:

"All persons dealing with public officers are bound to take notice of the law prescribing their authority and powers."

Continental Casualty Co. v. United States, 113 F.2d 284 (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," 113 F.2d, at 286.

Department of Ins. of Indiana v. Church Members Relief Ass'n., 217 Ind. 58, 26 N.E.2d 51 (1940):

"When the right to do a thing depends upon legislative authority, and the Legislature has failed to authorize it, or has forbidden it, no amount of acquiescence, or consent, or approval of the doing of it by a ministerial officer, can create a right to do the thing which is unauthorized or forbidden," 26 N.E.2d, at 52.

United States v. Hawthorne, 31 F.Supp. 827, 829 (N.D. Tex. 1940):

"A regulation dies with the statute from which it gains its life."

Quaker Oats Co. v. Fed. Security Administrator, 129 F.2d 76, 80 (7th Cir. 1942), reversed on other grounds at 318 U.S. 218, 63 S.Ct. 589 (1943):

"We assume there could be no dissent from the proposition that an administrative agency has only such authority in the administration of a Congressional enactment as is expressly conferred, or as may be reasonably implied."

Youngblood v. United States, 141 F.2d 912 (6th Cir. 1944): Action to compel recorder of deeds to file notices according to law as required by their ministerial Office.

"[T]he authority of ministerial officers is to be strictly construed as including only such powers as are expressly conferred, or necessarily implied," 141 F.2d, at 913.