

Government agents must show proof of authority

*See Pierce v. United States ("The Floyd Acceptances"), 7 Wall. (74 U.S.) 666, 677 ("We have **no officers in this government** from the President down to the most subordinate agent, who does not hold office under the law, with prescribed duties and limited authority"); **Cunningham v. Macon**, 109 U.S. 446, 452, 456, 3 S.Ct. 292, 297 ("In these cases he is **not sued as, or because he is, the officer of the government, but as an individual**, and the court is not ousted of jurisdiction because he asserts authority as such officer. To make out his defense he must show that his authority was sufficient in law to protect him... It is **no answer** for the defendant to say: **I am an officer of the government** and acted under its authority unless he shows the sufficiency of that authority"); and **Poindexter v. Greenhow**, 114 U.S. 270, 287, 5 S.Ct. 903, 912*