

Seawell And Law

Editor of the Daily News:

The dismissal of trespass charges against 43 students arrested in Cameron Village Shopping Center last February should be of great concern to all North Carolinians who believe in impartial law enforcement.

The arrest of these 43 students followed advise given by then Attorney General Malcolm B. Seawell to private property owners on the laws of trespass.

When brought to trial it was discovered that Seawell did not know the law. This development is certainly not adding to the dignity of North Carolina and its citizens. The indignity would not be so noticeable were it not for the fact that attorneys with a greater knowledge of law than Mr. Seawell had advised him he was wrong.

But, instead of reconsidering his position and acquainting himself with the facts, he fired off a reply to those who wanted to help him saying, "Our laws are none of your business," and telling these champions of law and order that if they didn't like his (uninformed and wrong) ruling they "could lump it."

Many years ago a political figure named Mayor Hague of Jersey City decided to have his brand of law and order enforced by declaring, "I am the law." The same group whom Seawell insulted were instrumental in eventually proving that Mayor Hague was not the law.

If Mr. Seawell wishes to protest that he does know the law he owes North Carolinians an explanation of his peculiar conduct and the arrests of 43 students who have been found innocent of any crime.

If he does not know the law he should return to law school instead of running for Governor on his record as attorney general.

WILLIAM A. GRIFFITH
Charlotte.