

EDITORIALS . . . WHAT WE THINK... Conservation battle...

Need for persuasion

Great Britain's form of parliamentary government provides for resignation of ministers and entire cabinets — occasionally the Parliament — when disagreements with the public or among personnel become too pronounced.

In this country we maintain set constitutional terms for all elective officials, who occupy their posts until their terms expire. If possible, the officials involved try to bend with the wind pending term expiration.

It was, therefore, perhaps more than could be expected that criticisms of Governor James R. Thompson's conservation director by dissenting groups of conservationists should result in the demand for resignation by David Kenney from his post.

Illinois Environmental Council Executive Director Sandra McCoy commented on the governor's decision not to comply with the demand to fire Kenney that the organization was: "deeply disappointed" in the governor's decision.

But, she added, "we are still hopeful our action will make the Department of Conservation more responsive to the needs of all Illinois citizens who are increasingly in favor of conservation and more open spaces."

Anyone familiar with what pressure it is possible for sportsmen's organizations to bring in behalf of their objectives could understand the governor's hesitancy to disturb the peace.

One of the demands from the conservation groups involved a curb on hunting in state parks.

Another primary demand of the conservationists opposed the threatened timber cutting in such state parks as Pere Marquette, where the administration has announced that practice is to be carried out by commercial interests.

Conservation Council Director McAvoy added that her group "will continue to work with the department" toward its announced goals.

The conservationists' prime hope, as we see it, lies in their improvement of ability to work with officialdom and change its views on these problems.

After all, a new conservation director might be even worse.

Evening-up assessments

Madison County Assessment Supervisor James Barton has crawled out on a limb and predicted property in the county's will enjoy a multiplier of 1 before the local valuation machinery finishes its job.