

No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing.

Volume I

Number 16

December 13, 1998

NOTICE FROM THE EDITOR

RE: RMU "GOUGERS"

In case NSN readers are confused about seeing our NSN article as a letter to the editor from me (Rolla Daily News on December 4, 1998), let me explain. R.D. Hohenfeldt called me and asked if he could use our article, "When the Lights Go Out in Rolla....etc." in the paper. I agreed, but assumed that he would use it as it appeared in NSN, a reprint of an article. He reworked it to look like a letter to the editor from me, Robert W. Nash, which it wasn't, and added his own title above it in big bold letters: "RMU Gouges Millions from Rolla Ratepayers Each Year."

I don't really mind the misrepresentation, although that's what it was. I didn't even mind that he edited out a whole paragraph of the article referring to NSN, although the article should have been left intact since I didn't give permission for it to be altered in any way. But as I said, I really don't mind - this time.

I confess the reason I didn't mind is that all on his own, R.D. made up a title for the 'letter' which described the actions of RMU as "GOUGING." Now "GOUGE" was a very tempting adjective that we worked hard to avoid using in the article, thinking that it might be a bit harsh. That is really strong language calling the four RMU board members: Dain Ward, Maurice Alfermann, Bill Jenks, III and Jim Stoffer, "GOUGERS." But,

that's what the RDN did. They said, "RMU gouges millions from Rolla ratepayers each year." Yessiree. They said it. But I guess they know what they're talking about. These are the same reporters who sit right up front at the council meetings when the mayor and the council hunt up "GOUGERS" to appoint to the RMU board. (Our city must find the right individuals to fill these positions in order to ensure that utility rates will be jacked up on a regular basis, and thus supply them with secret funds to give to people who have no business getting it.) The RDN boys just sit right there and watch it happen - I mean these "GOUGERS" being appointed. (Does that make the mayor and council GOUGE-EES?) Well, those guys at the paper have journalism degrees and they all pay utility bills too, so if they publicly announce that Ward, Alfermann, Jenks III, and Stoffer are "GOUGERS," well who are we to argue?

P.S. Don't forget "Dain Ward Day" is December 18, 1998.

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